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SPECIAL CONSUMER NOTICE
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NOTICE

On 1 June 1987 FBIS will begin publication of reorganized and renamed DAILY REPORTS. The following list details the changes being made in the eight volumes.

I.	CHINA DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
II.	EASTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
III.	SOVIET UNION DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
IV.	EAST ASIA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly ASIA & PACIFIC DAILY REPORT; contents unchanged
V.	NEAR EAST & SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA DAILY REPORT; contents include: Middle East & South Asia Review Inter-Arab Affairs Islamic Affairs Palestinian Affairs OPEC Affairs South Asian Regional Affairs Arab Africa Algeria Chad Egypt Libya Mauritania Morocco Sudan Tunisia Western Sahara Arabian Peninsula Bahrain Kuwait Oman PDRY Qatar Saudi Arabia United Arab Emirates Yemen Arab Republic Iraq Israel Jordan Lebanon Syria South Asia Afghanistan Bangladesh India Iran Maldives Nepal & Bhutan Pakistan Sri Lanka
VI.	LATIN AMERICA DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged

(continued on back of report)

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GERASIMOV ON GORBACHEV ARMS TALKS INITIATIVE

LD121135 Prague in Slovak to Europe 2230 GMT 11 Apr 87

[Text] [Announcer] Gennadiy Gerasimov, Soviet Foreign Ministry representative and a member of the entourage of Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, on his official friendly visit to Czechoslovakia, gave an interview to Radio Prague correspondent, Stefan Babiak.

Asked how he evaluates the importance of the new Soviet initiatives contained in the speech by Mikhail Gorbachev at the Czechoslovak-Soviet friendship rally, Gennadiy Gerasimov replied:

[Begin Gerasimov recording in Russian fading into translation] It is a continuation of our policy aimed at the elimination of nuclear weapons on the world toward the year 2000. Some obstacles, however, continually come up. We go to compromise, we back down, and in the West they continually keep thinking up new arguments to prevent the way forward to disarmament. Here in Prague Mikhail Gorbachev overturned some arguments. The first comment on his speech was made by your highest representative Gustav Husak. He said that the Soviet statesman swept from the table the arguments of the enemies of disarmament. Among other things we proposed independent talks about a reduction in the number and the elimination of operational and tactical missiles, those missiles of a range of 500-1,000 km. This was also one of the obstacles artificially created on the path to agreement on the elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe. This is a very important proposal, we shall see how the West replies to it.

In any case, today we are proposing to the West that talks be held on operational and tactical missiles in parallel [paralelne] and not to link this question with the problem of the removal of medium-range missiles. If the question of medium-range missiles is solved, then naturally we will remove the operational and tactical missiles with enhanced range that are located on the territory of Czechoslovakia and the GDR as a counterweight to U.S. Pershings and cruise missiles which the United States brought to Europe.

Another significant initiative concerns the proposal for a meeting of foreign ministers in Vienna to finally solve the question of the calling of a European conference on the reduction of conventional and chemical weapons in Europe. For a number of years now we have been holding talks on this issue. The so-called small Vienna has lasted 13 years now. Talks have been continuing all this time and they still cannot move from the spot. It is necessary to change them along a bit. We are prepared to eliminate inequality in arms in the direction of reduction if this inequality exists in some areas. And this is also a very significant initiative.

In his speech Mikhail Gorbachev also spoke about chemical weapons, about the fact that we have stopped their production, that we do not have them in other countries but only on our own territory, and that we have begun the construction of a new enterprise designated for their destruction in case of agreement on the elimination of chemical weapons. These initiatives have Europe in mind above all, because Mikhail Gorbachev was speaking in the center of Europe. He spoke about how to build a peaceful Europe. [end recording]

[Announcer] Asked where he sees the significance of the present visit by the highest Soviet representatives for the further development of relations between both our countries, Gennadiy Gerasimov said:

[Begin Gerasimov recording in Russian fading into translation] I would say that this visit raises our relations to a new level. The main goal, the main purpose of the visit, as Mikhail Gorbachev said, is to secure the development of relations between our countries and raising them onto a qualitatively higher plane. I think that this will be expounded in detail in the joint document that will be adopted. [end recording]

[Announcer] Asked how he evaluated the importance of the proposals by the Governments of Czechoslovakia and the GDR addressed to West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, on the creation of a nuclear and chemical weapon-free corridor in central Europe, Gennadiy Gerasimov replied:

[Begin Gerasimov recording in Russian fading into translation] The Soviet Union fully supports this initiative. To a certain extent it overlaps with our proposals for the elimination of nuclear weapons in Europe as a whole. For example in that initiative we proposed talks on operational and tactical missiles and some of them are exactly in this corridor. We are prepared to eliminate them completely, but if there is no success in doing this quickly, then, in the case of the corridor being created, we are prepared to take them away [odvest]. This is a very interesting idea because here there should be no nuclear weapons; that means not even weapons of dual designation. Now there are guns that can fire both nuclear and ordinary ammunition. We are of the opinion that such weapons of dual designation must also be removed from the nuclear-free corridor. Unfortunately Bonn's reaction is very reserved, almost negative. The idea of creating a nuclear-free corridor is however very good, and the Soviet Union fully supports it. [end recording]

GORBACHEV PRAGUE SPEECH CIRCULATED IN GENEVA

LD141816 Moscow TASS in English 1400 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] Geneva April 14 TASS -- A text of the foreign policy part of the speech made by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, on April 10 in Prague was circulated here at the disarmament conference as an official document.

Speaking at a plenary meeting, Yuriy Nazarkin, head of the Soviet delegation, emphasized that the Soviet leader had clearly set forth the stand of the USSR on a number of most topical problems connected with the limitation of the arms race, the consolidation of trust and the development of cooperation. New proposals were made, including on problems that are included in the agenda of the disarmament conference.

The Soviet representative dwelt on the problem of verification and control over the observance of future disarmament agreements. In this field the USSR is ready to advance as much as it is needed. Its concept of arms control covers the whole range of armaments and armed forces. It is a necessary component part of effective agreements if the point at issue is a real limitation, reduction and elimination of the armaments, the armed forces or military activities.

Gheorghe Dolgu, a representative of Romania, welcomed the recent Soviet initiatives on intermediate-range and theatre missiles in Europe. He said that the Soviet proposals created a real possibility of reaching agreement with the U.S. in a short period of time on the settlement of this problem. The Romanian representative pointed out as well the urgent need for a complete elimination of nuclear weapons, which would meet the security interests of all the countries and peoples. He said that the attaining of this goal by the year 2000 was by no means an utopia.

Western Reaction Viewed

PM150925 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Apr 87 Morning Edition p 4

[IZVESTIYA Press Service report: "Moscow Is Offering an Olive Branch. Evasive and Ambiguous Response by Official Circles in the West"]

[Text] Only 3 days after the Soviet leader's Prague statement, having recovered from their "serious embarrassment," as Britain's THE OBSERVER put it, official circles in the West basically repeated their former response to all recent initiatives by the USSR. Every time Moscow has suggested compromise and mutually acceptable solutions in the arms control sphere, displayed exceptional flexibility at talks, and demonstrated in practice the meaning of "new thinking" in the nuclear age, the Western partners responded with the formula "Yes, of course, but...."

No exception was made as regards the USSR's proposal to start discussing the question of the reduction and subsequent elimination of missiles with a range of 500-1,000 km, without linking with it the course and outcome of solving the problem of medium-range missiles.

U.S. Secretary of Defense C. Weinberger declared that this step "sweeps away a major obstacle" from the path to arms reductions, but he went on to add that the United States intends to be "circumspect" and "not to raise any excessive expectations among the public." An even more definite statement was made by a high-ranking U.S. spokesman who did not give his name but did, according to a UPI report, describe the USSR's proposal as "bait." He also said: "We must wait and see what they have in mind."

U.S. Ambassador to the FRG R. Burt warned the West against supporting the Soviet proposals made in Prague because the disappearance of nuclear weapons from the continent of Europe could, he claimed, result in the West "becoming hostage to the USSR's superior conventional arms." It seems as if the champions of strongarm policies and the arms race are fighting stubborn rearguard actions, even though they are surrendering one position after another and losing the arguments in favor of peace based on strength.

Indeed, there are fewer and fewer arguments to be found. Interviewed by the TF-1 channel, French Foreign Minister J.-B. Raimond welcomed M.S. Gorbachev's proposals in the chemical weapons sphere and made a positive assessment of the ideas in the sphere of verification and inspection of the observance of disarmament agreements. At the same time, he emphasized: Of course, the new proposals, like the other Soviet initiatives, do contain positive elements, but everything must be thoroughly weighed and considered before a final assessment is made. I repeat that it is necessary to show "double vigilance" as regards the Soviet Union's policy, the minister declared.

The thesis of "double vigilance" is currently being promoted in various ways in London and Bonn. Despite the "loudly expressed fears" about Soviet operational and tactical missiles, Britain's THE OBSERVER writes, neither M. Thatcher nor H. Kohl "want these systems eliminated. They want the right to match the Soviet forces on the basis of the 'missile for missile' principle within the framework of a ceiling that would result from accords."

In other words, while the Soviet Union proposes to take matters as far as the reduction and subsequent elimination of missiles of this class, London and Bonn -- to judge by THE OBSERVER's commentary -- seek to build up operational and tactical missiles. If this is so, the approaches are diametrically opposed.

It is no accident that champions of military detente in Europe have warned the Western countries' governments not to reject the Soviet initiative outright. For example, H.-J. Vogel, chairman of the Social Democratic Party of Germany [SPD] Bundestag faction, condemned the maneuvers by right-wing forces creating obstacles to the implementation of this proposal. The Social Democrats, he said, will not allow the "zero option" on these missiles to be torpedoed by making it subject to unrealistic conditions. Such attempts, H.-J. Vogel noted, run contrary to the FRG's interests.

The unconstructive position taken by the ruling Christian Democratic Union/Christian Social Union bloc is a front for the interests of the senior transatlantic partner in NATO. According to E. Horn, SPD expert on defense questions, there are plans to replace the Lance operational and tactical missiles on FRG territory with upgraded missiles of the same class. In its 13 April issue DER SPIEGEL reports a "secret document" from the Ministry of Defense which speaks of plans to replace the reduced range [ponizhennoy dalnosti] Pershing-1A missiles deployed by the Pentagon on FRG territory with the upgraded Pershing-1B model, starting in 1991. Is this not the basic reason for the unwillingness to altogether abandon the "nuclear deterrence" strategy?

And one more commentary. West Germany's NEUE RUHRZEITUNG, summing up the result of the West's response to the Soviet leader's statement, writes: From the general political viewpoint, he has again won the battle for West Europeans' hearts.... In any case, one thing is reprehensible: To dismiss M.S. Gorbachev's new proposals as mere propaganda.

Will this be heeded in Western capitals?

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA Commentary

PM161545 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 16 Apr 87 (edition unknown) p 3

[L. Savanin commentary: "From the Atlantic to the Urals"]

[Text] The speech by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in the Prague Palace of Culture is at the focus of the world public's attention. The new proposals by the Soviet leadership "are a real revolution in the disarmament sphere," the French newspaper LES ECHOS observes. The London newspaper THE TIMES quotes Lord Carrington, NATO general secretary, as describing the Soviet proposal to conclude a convention on eliminating chemical weapons as "splendid." "The Soviet Union is once again displaying flexibility," "Gorbachev has taken another step to speed up the process of reaching accords on medium-range missiles in Europe" -- this has been said on leading U.S. television programs....

The new Soviet initiatives made from the geographical center of our continent symbolize the importance of the European aspect of USSR foreign policy, which is aimed at resolving the problems of universal security. This is understandable. Once relations of good-neighborliness and identical security have been established with all the countries from the Atlantic to the Urals, it will be easier to proceed further and simpler to resolve more global tasks in this connection. That is why it is particularly important to draw attention to the question of what subjects for good-neighborly dialogue in our "common European home" are being proposed today by the socialist countries.

The Warsaw Pact Political Consultative Committee Conference held in Budapest on 10-11 June 1986 supported the Soviet Union's program to completely eliminate nuclear and other types of mass destruction weapons everywhere by the end of the century. [paragraph continues]

Clearly, it is simply impossible to solve such an extensive task at a stroke, as they say. It has to be resolved in stages. Why not begin with measures, for example, such as creating nuclear-free zones and zones free of chemical weapons in central Europe? This exact proposal has been made by the GDR and CSSR Governments to the FRG Government.

Imagine if all nuclear ammunition, including nuclear mines, operational and tactical missiles, nuclear artillery, tactical strike aircraft, and also antiaircraft missile complexes capable of using nuclear weapons, were to be removed from a corridor 150 kilometres wide on each side of the border dividing the NATO and Warsaw Pact countries. How sharply military confrontation would be reduced! And what a major step could be taken subsequently to totally eliminate these weapons!

The first to respond immediately and constructively to this initiative was the Soviet Union. It stated its readiness to remove all Soviet nuclear means from this corridor and guarantee and respect the nonnuclear status of this zone provided, of course, that the NATO bloc would also remove its nuclear weapons from the corridor proposed by the GDR and the CSSR.

Well, and how has the West responded to this proposal? Paul Warnke, former director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, has said, for example: "The process of changing NATO's present nuclear strategy could be facilitated by creating a nuclear-free corridor in central Europe..... This would not only lead to the withdrawal of tactical weapons from the forward positions in which they are stationed but also to an alteration in the structure of conventional armed forces." Quite so. This is exactly what is desire by the socialist countries today, and also by everyone else who has a vital interest in lasting peace on the European Continent.

The reaction of official circles in NATO countries has been different, however. Statements have already been made in the West to the effect that a nuclear-free Europe is unacceptable to the NATO countries.

Interesting natural laws can be observed today in the interrelations between the two world systems: The USSR or any other socialist country only has to make another statement in favor of peace and detente for those people in capitalist countries who hitherto approved of and understood such ideas to immediately come up with various excuses and create additional difficulties in order to avoid discussing the issue. This is exactly what is happening today with the problem of reducing medium-range missiles -- that very same "zero option" for which the West recently voted literally with both hands. Some politicians and even entire governments now refuse to have anything to do with their "zero option" -- as if it were an evil spirit -- and are trying to make the solution to the problem of medium-range missiles conditional upon all manner of provisions and linkages, as the Paris newspaper LE FIGARO did recently, for example. The West Europeans are frightened by the Soviet arsenal of conventional weapons with which the USSR would supposedly intimidate Europe after the "denuclearization" of the continent.

The Soviet Union and other socialist countries persistently seek new versions of mutually acceptable accords. For example, in order to facilitate the urgent conclusion of an agreement on medium-range missiles, the USSR has proposed beginning discussion of the question of reducing and subsequently eliminating missiles with a range of between 1,000 km that are stationed on the European Continent, without linking the progress and outcome of the tackling of the medium-range missile problem with this.

Implementation of the Warsaw Pact countries' Budapest program, which proposes resolving the questions of reducing armed forces and conventional arms as part of a complex with tactical missiles, strike aircraft, nuclear artillery, and other nuclear tactical means, would be a major step in this direction.

Implementing the proposals of Bulgaria, Romania, and Greece to create a zone free of nuclear and chemical weapons in the Balkans would undoubtedly be of great significance in the task of reducing military confrontation. The active stand taken by Poland in the matter of building confidence on the European Continent deserves attention and support. The proposal by the Warsaw Pact states to the NATO countries to announce a mutual moratorium for 1-2 years on increases in military expenditure by the two alliances' states is also a new step in resolving the problem of disarmament....

As we can see, a considerable number of proposals have been made. The Warsaw Pact states are prepared to develop a constructive dialogue to determine the most effective ways and specific measures to restructure international relations in line with the aspirations of all peoples in the context of the realities of the nuclear-space age. The development of such a dialogue is precisely the aim of the socialist countries' new proposals to convene an economic forum in Prague, a conference on scientific and technical cooperation in Bucharest, an ecological forum, and a conference on the development of humanitarian cooperation in Moscow, which would have particular significance in the development of the European process "from the Atlantic to the Urals."

Government circles in the West say that they are carefully studying the new peace initiatives made in Prague. One would hope this process does not take very long. The world is waiting for a specific answer to the question troubling everyone today: Will this year see a turning point away from military confrontation and toward detente, which will be initiated by our European Continent?

UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS CONDUCTED

For 'Military Technology'

LD170212 Moscow TASS in English 0211 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 17 TASS -- The Soviet Union conducted an underground nuclear test within the range between 20 and 150 kilotons at its test site in the Semipalatinsk region at 5:05 Moscow time today.

The test was carried out with a view to perfecting military technology.

For 'National Economy'

LD190500 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0450 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] [no dateline as received] TASS report -- Two underground nuclear explosions with the capacity of up to 20 kilotons were conducted in the Soviet Union in Perm Oblast on 19 April 1987, at 0800 Moscow time [0400 GMT].

The explosions were performed in the interests of the national economy.

GERASIMOV FOREIGN MINISTRY NEWS CONFERENCE 16 APR

USSR-U.S. Talks

LD161530 Moscow TASS in English 1518 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 16 TASS -- "The Soviet side was receiving U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in the spirit of new thinking, with taking into account the role the United States is playing in world politics, with taking into account the experience of our dialogue with the U.S. Administration, also at the summit level," said spokesman for the USSR Foreign Ministry Gennadiy Gerasimov. He spoke here today at a briefing for Soviet and foreign journalists.

Questions central to international security, to Soviet-American relations were thoroughly discussed. All this promoted understanding of the positions of the sides, created conditions for bringing these positions closer in future, Gennadiy Gerasimov said. Questions of nuclear, space arms, other aspects of arms reduction and elimination were in the focus. A fundamental agreement has been achieved to speed up jointly the work on the Reykjavik arrangement on medium-range missiles. We would like the agreement to be drawn up within a short period of time, and we are prepared to be resolving constructively quesions of shorter-range missiles for this purpose. We proposed to embark on the working our of key provisions for the further talks on strategic offensive arms, the ABM treaty and nuclear weapon tests.

Alongside the signing of a treaty on medium-range missilies, these key provisions could become the subject of arrangement at the summit level, the spokesman for the USSR Foreign Ministry said. The upshot is such: The Soviet Union came out with important, and as many in the West noted, unexpected initiatives, while the U.S. side actually proved to be unprepared to discuss them in essence, Gerasimov said. We showed the readiness to give additional time to the United States and its allies, an additional opportunity to ponder on the Soviet proposals.

The discussion of questions of security and disarmament will be continued at various levels with taking into account the exchange of opinions held in Moscow, the spokesman for the USSR Foreign Ministry said.

Gennadiy Gerasimov said that the very fact of George Shultz's visit to the USSR is very positively assessed in the Soviet Union. Positively assessed is also the fact that a dialogue was held on many problems. But it is noted that Shultz gave no answer to Soviet proposals, explaining this by the need to consult allies. It would be undesireable if the process of the United States consultations with allies were very extensive. This process should have time frames, the spokesman for the USSR Foreign Ministry said. A summit meeting will be possible only if a constructive answer is given to the Soviet proposals.

Answering questions of reporters, Gennadiy Gerasimov made a remark about George Shultz quoting in an interview to Soviet television a statement by the late USSR Defence Minister Grechko. George Shultz said that during the ratification of the ABM Treaty at the meeting of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet on September 29, 1972, Andrey Grechko made the following statement: "It (the ABM Treaty) does not set any limits to research and experiments aimed at resolving the problem of protecting the country against nuclear missile strikes."

This statement is now used in the United States for speculative purposes in order to prove that the USSR has allegedly been declaring from the very start in favour of so-called "broad interpretation" of the ABM Treaty, even though this statement has nothing to do with the new interpretation which the U.S. Administration adopts now.

The spokesman for the USSR Foreign Ministry said that Andrey Grechko's statement dealt with fundamental provisions and restrictions envisaged by the provisions of the ABM Treaty. These restrictions now have to be mentioned again and again for the reason that they in the United States are now prepared to reject them. "I must note that the ABM Treaty deals only with stationary land-based ABM systems and components and only applicably [as received] to just one area of the ABM systems deployment, agreed upon by the sides. Andrey Grechko's statement on research should be viewed in the context of these restrictions," Gerasimov said.

Citizen Exit Procedure

LD161458 Moscow TASS in English 1444 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 16 TASS -- During his stay in Moscow, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz was handed over a letter of two prominent Soviet citizens of the Jewish nationality expressing indignation over political exploitation of the problem of exit from the USSR of Soviet citizens of the Jewish nationality. Spokesman for the USSR Foreign Ministry Gennadiy Gerasimov reported this here today at a briefing for Soviet and foreign journalists.

The spokesman for the Foreign Ministry said that humanitarian problems, specifically, had been discussed during a meeting with the U.S. secretary of state. The Soviet side expressed concern over the state of affairs in the social and humanitarian sphere in the USA. It was sought to establish the United States' attitude to the convocation of a representative humanitarian conference in Moscow. The attitude of the U.S. side can as yet be summed up as "neither yes nor no."

The U.S. side was thoroughly explained the existing exit procedure for Soviet citizens leaving the USSR, which stipulates their right to appeal against refusals of exit, including the right to appeal to the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet. The Soviet side emphasised that the discussion of concrete cases takes its normal course and does not depend on any visits and demarches. It is conducted on an individual basis. Nevertheless, taking into account a proper atmosphere at the discussion of these matters, the U.S. side was rererred for its notice a list of the cases which have been settled in the latest period, including the cases of the persons for whom the U.S. side interceded. Among the latter are, specifically, Soviet citizens A.M. Demekhin, S.I. Loshakova, M.I. Aliyeva Zubrich. They refuse to leave the USSR. The U.S. list includes G.A. Talalayevskiy who left the Soviet Union back in 1982 and E.I. Zlotver who died in 1980.

U.S. 'Unprepared' for Proposals

LD161738 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1630 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Today at the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs Press Center a briefing tor Soviet and foreign journalists took place at which Gennadiy Gerasimov, head of the Information Directorate of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, spoke. He said, specifically:

[Begin Gerasimov recording] The official visit to our country by U.S. Secretary of State Geroge Shultz has ended. We received him in the spirit of the new thinking, taking into account the role that the United States plays in international politics, taking into account the experience that has been accumulated in our relations and in the dialogue with the U.S. Administration, also on the highest level. A reasonably detailed discussion of the key questions of international security and of USSR-U.S. relations took place. All this has had a certain importance, has been useful, and has contributed to a better understanding of positions. We hope that it has contributed to bringing these positions closer in the future.

One has to say that the baggage the secretary of state took with him to Moscow -- of course, if we exclude the specialized baggage for communicating with Washington -- was not very large. We made proposals; the U.S. side listened to them and reserved its position. Despite the fact that the U.S. delegation was fairly large, one had the feeling that the head had not too many possibilities for maneuvering. We had the impression that the U.S. side is not prepared to reply in a constructive way to the concrete Soviet proposals. On the other hand, it recognized the need for resolving the cardinal problems of security. Yet the discussion of the issues of security and disarmament will be continued at various levels taking into account the exchange of opinions that took place in Moscow.

However, we think that this exchange of opinions has revealed new possibilities for developing and enriching bilateral cooperation. In particular, an agreement was signed on cooperation in space research and exploitation for peaceful purposes. In general, in our opinion, the result is as follows: The Soviet Union came out with important and -- as many people in the West commented -- unexpected initiatives; the U.S. side appeared unprepared to discuss them in essence, while we, for our part, showed our readiness to give additional time and possibilities to the United States and its allies to think over our Soviet proposals. [end recording]

U.S. 'Unable' To Respond

AU161521 Paris AFP in English 1511 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow, April 16 (AFP) -- U.S. Secretary of State Geroge Shultz brought to Moscow few "new proposals" and was unable to "respond positively" to Soviet disarmament offers, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov said here Thursday.

But Mr. Gerasimov agreed, however, with the U.S. view that progress had been made during Mr. Shultz's three-day visit that ended Wednesday, echoing statements made in Brussels by Mr. Shultz that an accord to eliminate intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) stationed in Europe was "possible."

He said Moscow evaluated "positively" the talks which centered on the proposed elimination of medium-range nuclear missiles from Europe.

Mr. Shultz, however, "did not come to Moscow with many new proposals," the spokesman charged.

He criticised Mr. Shultz for being "unable to respond positively to Soviet proposals" and said Washington was hiding behind its European allies.

This, Mr. Gerasimov said, was not a problem because Moscow "has always indicated to the United States and its allies that it was willing to give them the necessary time to reflect upon the Soviet proposals."

He warned, however, that U.S.-European consultations should not drag indefinitely, although he stressed that Moscow had not set a deadline for a response.

But he added that U.S. elections were two years away and President Ronald Reagan, whom he described as a "lame duck," needed to exert staunch efforts before that date.

He also reiterated that an eventual summit meeting between Mikhail Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan was pegged to the positive outcome of negotiations on European disarmament.

In Brussels, where he briefed North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies on his Moscow talks, Mr. Shultz stressed the need for a prompt accord on the Soviet offer to scrap shorter-range misiles (SRINF), adding, "we have before us the prospects of a good INF agreement."

Elsewhere, Mr. Gerasimov said the Soviet Union does not on the so-called "zero option" -- which calls for eliminating from Europe, American and Soviet missiles with a range of more than 600 miles (about 970 kilometers). [sentence as received]

He said the proposal was strategically unbalanced because of U.S. "nuclear presence in Japan and in South Korea," adding that the United States had 48 F-16 combat aircraft in Japan equipped with nuclear weapons.

Mr. Gerasimov said the planes were equipped with nuclear bombs that had a span of 600 kilometers (about 372 miles), capable of reaching the Soviet city of Khabarovsk in the eastern Soviet Union.

He did not, however, allude to China. The Soviet Union, which is trying to improve its ties with China, does not wish to sign a separate agreement with the U.S. that might hinder its relations with its neighbour.

'No Proof' on Spy Charges

AU161647 Paris AFP in English 1626 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Moscow, April 16 (AFP) -- U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz provided "no proof" of claims that the KGB had bugged the new U.S. Embassy in Moscow, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov said there Thursday.

"Last week we presented to the press, here and in Washington, the activities of the American intelligence services" in Soviet diplomatic missions, said Mr. Gerasimov, "but when we asked Mr. Shultz for proof (of his charges) he had nothing but words."

"It's the same for the marines," he said referring to the recent allegations of lax security made against several marines at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. "They have been accused, but no proof has been given. It appears to be nothing more than a case of activities between consenting adults," he said. [passage omitted]

Need for Missiles in Asia

LD161513 Moscow TASS in English 1507 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 16 TASS -- The need to retain a hundred Soviet nuclear warheads in the Asian part of the USSR is determined by the strategic situation in the Asia-Pacific region forming as a result of the presence in South Korea and the Japanese islands of American nuclear forces capable of reaching the territory of the Soviet Union, a briefing here was told by Gennadiy Gerasimov, head of the Information Directorate of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Reykjavik formula that formed the basis of the current work to conclude an agreement on medium-range missiles, he said, provides for retaining 100 warheads in the Asian part of the USSR and 100 warheads on the territory of the United States.

When defining its position the Soviet Union proceeded from the fact that the United States has a large number of forward-based systems in the Pacific area capable of reaching the territory of the USSR and its allies. Major American naval bases servicing nuclear-capable planes and ships are located in direct proximity of Soviet borders. The deployment of American "Lance" missiles in South Korea has been officially announced.

If the United States responds to the proposals made in Vladivostok and Delhi on turning the Pacific Ocean into a zone of peace, on liquidating Soviet and American military presence abroad then there will be no need for the presence of Soviet medium-range missiles in Asia, the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Oil Fields Discovery in PDRY

LD161518 Moscow TASS in English 1507 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 16 TASS -- Three good quality oil fields have been discovered as a result of the research efforts carried out by the group of Soviet geologists in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY), Gennadiy Gerasimov, a spokesman for the USSR Foreign Ministry, told a briefing for Soviet and foreign journalists here today.

The Ministry of Geology of the USSR and the Ministry of Energy of the PDRY currently conduct research with a view to estimating oil reserves and specifying the time for starting their development and exploitation, Gerasimov said. A Soviet delegation led by Yevgeniy Kozlovskiy, minister of geology of the USSR, left for the PDRY to attend the activities organized by the South Yemeni side in conjuction with the oil discovery.

Uncovering oil in the PDRY by Soviet geologists is added proof of the fruitful nature of economic cooperation between our countries, which is maintained under the treaty of friendship and cooperation between the USSR and the PDRY.

GERASIMOV ASSESSES SHULTZ VISIT TO MOSCOW

FM191355 Moscow SOVETSKAYA KULTURA in Russian 18 Apr 87 p 7

["Saturday Commentary" by G. Gerasimov: "After the Mission to Moscow"]

[Text] George Shultz, U.S. secretary of state, visited our country this week.

Much was written in the West prior to the visit about its prospects, but even the optimists were put to shame. They wrote, in particular, about various possible approaches to the solution of the problem of operational and tactical missiles (OTM), but through a Soviet initiative, the problem itself was removed.

Having heard the unexpected Soviet proposals that get rid of Western misgivings connected with the elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe -- misgivings that were farfetched in our view -- G. Shultz took time out.

He had the right to do so, although for the benefit of the matter one would have liked him to have broader power rather than simply listening.

He brought many advisers with him and an abundance of guaranteed secure communications means, but, from the viewpoint of diplomatic baggage, he travelled light. His mandate was limited and possibly one of the reasons is the continuing disagreement in the Washington administration over the fundamental question of how to treat the Soviet Union: as a sworn enemy, or as a respected partner in the quest for mutual security.

In any case the secretary of state undoubtedly had the right to travel with his report to Santa Barbara, California, where the President is relaxing, via Brussels, Belgium, where he gave an account of his Moscow mission to the NATO foreign ministers.

The initial reaction in Brussels, and indeed in Washington, to the Soviet proposals could not fail to contain elements of approbation: After all, the West's own wishes were coming true, the notorious "advantage of the Soviet Union" in operational and tactical missiles was being eliminated. Accordingly the President expressed optimism and registered "important progress."

"I hope," the President declared, "that the process that has begun will progress and that Mr Gorbachev and I will be able to complete a historic agreement in East-West relations at a summit meeting."

So why have things gotten stuck?

They have become stuck on the foundations of NATO strategy which relies on nuclear deterrence.

For an introduction to the NATO way of thinking, let me quote the reasoning of the London TIMES of 16 April:

"If the present Soviet proposals are adopted in full, the result will be to turn the arms control clock back 10 years." According to THE TIMES, the reason for this is the Soviet Union's 2.5:1 superiority over NATO in tanks and artillery.

The world has been told repeatedly that the Soviet "overwhelming superiority" is the result not of calculations but of falsifications. Nevertheless, this "overwhelming superiority" is talked about in all Western political salons, and of course, in Washington too.

Ambassador Jonathan Dean, who headed the U.S. delegation at the talks on the reduction of NATO and Warsaw Pact forces from 1978 through 1981 makes clear, from an informed viewpoint, that the NATO forces "are equal to the Soviet forces to a significantly greater degree than is allowed for by the majority of analyses." In Dean's words, Soviet superiority is a "myth" the mass media are "accepting without reservation, without even pondering it or studying its foundations."

There is now no opportunity to go deeper into this almost "eternal" topic. It should be noted, however, that the Warsaw Pact countries have no aggressive intentions. On 10 April in Prague, M.S. Gorbachev proposed that the foreign ministers of the participants states of the Helsinki process should meet in Vienna and adopt a decision on commencing large-scale negotiations on a radical reduction of armed forces and armaments in Europe.

Such is our preemptive response to the probable results of "an in-depth study of all the consequences" of the Soviet proposal for which FRG Foreign Minister H. -D. Genscher is calling.

Geoffrey Howe, the British Foreign secretary on 16 April has already given a reminder about the "harsh facts of life -- geography and the Soviet superiority in conventional and chemical weapons."

Mention has already been made of "superiority" and it is possible here to argue and negotiate, but what is to be done about the geography Howe mentioned? It is beyond dispute and is not amenable to negotiation, for the Soviet Union cannot fly off to the moon or sink to the bottom of the sea. Perhaps one could look at geography not as an enemy but as an ally, and perceive Europe not as a continent split by military blocs, but as our common home?

Now that we have removed one "linkage" -- medium-range missiles with operational and tactical missiles, they want to propose the next one -- medium-range missiles with conventional arms. In accordance with the rule: The "linkage" is dead, long live the "linkage!"

Zorin Commentary

LD160804Z Moscow in English to North American 2200 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Moscow Viewpoint" commentary by Valentin Zorin]

[Text] One of the main issues being discussed worldwide these days is the result of the talks that Secretary of State Shultz had in Moscow where new Soviet disarmament proposals were announced. How does the American side see these negotiations? I put this question to Mr Shultz as I interviewed him for more than half an hour on Soviet television. The secretary described the results of the talks as rather favorable. He believes that the two sides have managed to considerably narrow down their differences. Anyway, that is what he told me. In the first place, they came closer to a solution of one major problem, the elimination of Soviet and American medium-range missiles in Europe, and also achieved progress on a number of other important world issues.

Mr Shultz' interview was seen by more than 100 million Soviet televiewers. First comments say that the Soviet people would like to share his optimism. I agree with this opinion. However I'd be cautious in my assessment of the Moscow talks. Why? Well, although Mr Shultz' position contained constructive elements, his negotiations confirmed that the American Administration is still not prepared to act energetically and walk its part of the way. I have the impression that Mr Shultz was unable to act freely because he had to confine himself to tough bounds established by Washington. I believe it was not accidental that among the officials who accompanied Mr Shultz were strong opponents of disarmament, people like Kenneth Adelman and Richard Perle. I have the impression that if the American delegation's attitude were more constructive, the Moscow talks would have produced much greater results already now and not at some future date in Geneva.

I'd also like to point to some circumstances that accompanied the negotiations, for instance the spy mania campaign started in the United States. Why has Washington chosen this particular time to poison the political atmosphere? What will the American Adminstration do now that it has new Soviet proposals before it? An early solution to major disarmament problems, in the first place medium-range and shorter-range missiles and a change for the better in Soviet-American relations and international affairs depend on this. And this is how the USSR's leading body, the Politburo of the Communist Party Central Committee sees the results of Mr Shultz' talks in Moscow.

REPORTAGE ON VISIT OF U.S. CONGRESS DELEGATION

Gorbachev Meets Congressmen

PM161003 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Apr 87 Second Edition pp 1, 4

[TASS report: "M.S. Gorbachev's Conversation With a U.S. Congress House of Representatives Delegation"]

[Text] Mikhail Gorbachev met in the Kremlin on 15 April with the U.S. congressional delegation led by Jim Wright, speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. The delegation including 20 congressmen, among whom are leading figures from both groups of the House, has already had a number of meetings with Soviet representatives in Kiev and in Moscow and started a discussion of a broad range of issues with the delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Before the conversation in full complement, Mikhail Gorbachev had a brief exchange of views with Jim Wright, Thomas Foley, House Democratic majority leader, and Richard Cheney, who represents the Republicans in the delegation.

Then all the participants in the meeting, many of whom were accompanied by their wives, were introduced to Mikhail Gorbachev.

Mikhail Gorbachev welcomed the visit to the Soviet Union of such an authoritative delegation, and congratulated its leader on the recent election to the high post of House speaker. He said approvingly that albeit the dialogue between the U.S. and Soviet MPs is a difficult one, it is gaining momentum. This assumes the greater significance in the light of the growing influence of the U.S. Congress on the policy of the United States and the role played by the USSR Supreme Soviet in carrying out the reorganisation.

You should rest assured, Mikhail Gorbachev told the guests, that the implementation of the plans for the transformations, which have been started in our country, constitutes no threat in any respect either to the United States or to anybody else. We welcome your visit, the more so that we would especially like to be understood now by both the U.S. Administration and the American people. There has been some progress in this respect recently. We have noticed that. Yet so far it has had little effect on real cooperation, whose level in no way corresponds either to the potentialities or the duties of both our countries. The role predestined by history to the USSR and the United States, makes it incumbent upon them to know each other better, since it is only in this way that it is possible to exclude surprises in politics and such decisions that may prove to be extremely adverse to both countries and to all of mankind. For each of our countries to be confident of its future, we need mutual understanding and cooperation. Therefore, however difficult it may be, however the relations may be complicated at times through foreign and internal factors, we should never lose sight of that aim.

Mikhail Gorbachev voiced hope that after the election of the new leadership in Congress, the process of the Soviet-U.S. dialogue would become more regular, more intensive, and more productive.

Mikhail Gorbachev briefed the congressmen in detail on the contents of the talks with George Shultz. He expressed the opinion that both countries are close to reaching agreement on the problem of medium-range missiles in linkage with operational and tactical missiles. He also pointed out the Soviet Union's preparedness to scrap unilaterally that type of nuclear weapons in the course of several months or roughly a year. In that connection he again expressed perplexity about the "upside down logic", which already manifests itself in the attempts at responding to our new major initiative with an arms buildup.

This initiative provides another chance for a radical turn in international relations. The real intentions and abilities to make real steps towards international security will have to be judged by whether use is made of them. Our steps, our initiatives, Mikhail Gorbachev said, are motivated by our country's deep fundamental interests, and are closely linked with the period through which it is going. They are predetermined by new thinking, which includes the realization of the responsibility placed on the great powers by the current state of the situation in the world.

Mikhail Gorbachev dwelt upon the problem of reducing the triad of the strategic offensive weapons. He reaffirmed the immutable connection between the resolution of the issue with the observance of the ABM Treaty. He briefed the congressmen on the proposal made to George Shultz on ABM research, and stressed that there too our clarified compromise proposal is motivated by the wish to find a way out.

Mikhail Gorbachev resolutely rejected the conjectures that arise in the United States in waves and that sweep the congress at times, about the Soviet Union's alleged violation of the arrangements under the SALT II treaty. He pointed out that the Soviet Union had considerably reduced its strategic weapon systems to be within the frameworks set by these arrangements.

Mikhail Gorbachev attentively received considerations expressed by the U.S. congressmen, specifically, Jim Wright's statement that the Soviet Union's moratorium on nuclear explosions that lasted for 1 and 1/2 years, even though the U.S. Government had not joined in it, might yield tangible practical results in the near future. [paragraph continues]

Answering the call of the speaker to the Soviet leadership to continue observing restrictions imposed by the SALT II treaty, Gorbachev said that he welcomes his words, but in order to be fair, the Congress should also address the same call to the U.S. Administration, which ostentatiously violated the treaty in 1986.

Mikhail Gorbachev supported all the directions of cooperation proposed by Jim Wright: At the level of parliaments, exchanges among citizens, students, television link-ups, cultural ties, etc. He also received with interest the idea of a joint study of adjacent Soviet and U.S. regions of the north, as well as a project for jointly combatting famine and disease in Africa, even though all these things, naturally, require concrete analysis by experts.

We are truly sincere when we propose to exchange experience in the solution of various problems, including national ones, but for this to be useful, it is necessary to abandon speculations and attempts at interfering in internal affairs, to get rid of a gendarme's and teacher's ways. One must give up the "enemy image". All these are things of the past, intolerable in the present situation. What is needed is attention to all people, to every country and a self-critical attitude toward oneself and the problems of one's own country. We must be aware of mutual responsibility, whether we like each other or not.

Humanitarian matters, matters of emigration were touched upon. The congressmen expressed the opinion that the transformations taking place in the Soviet Union contribute to the strengthening of the atmosphere of confidence and this, in its turn, will be promoting the solution of many problems, both bilateral and international.

So far one has to note, however, that methods that can only impede positive processes are still used in the question of human rights. We witness actions that, as Mikhail Gorbachev put it, one feels awkward even to mention, as, for instance, when dissatisfied persons are sought out on purpose among Soviet people and a falsified image of Soviet society is formed with their assistance.

In conclusion Mikhail Gorbachev noted that there are no taboo questions in the dialogue with the Congress, and with the West in general, and personal contacts are very important for there are no politics in general. They always have their champions, concrete persons invested with confidence, and even with power, and when they know each other, they can predict what will be the attitude to some or other action, to some or other political step. This helps appraise correctly the conditions of making decisions and their consequences. So, from this view point, too, the visit of such an important delegation from the United States is, undoubtedly, a positive occurrence.

The detailed conversation with the congressmen was marked by mutual awareness of the importance of the normalization of Soviet-U.S. relations and the striving to seek approaches to the solution of vital international problems.

Anatoliy Dobrynin, Lev Tolkunov, Yuriy Dubinin, and Georgiy Arbatov took part in the meeting.

Wright on Gorbachev Meeting

LD170144 Moscow in English to North America 2200 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Our reporter Sergey Gorbachev talked with James Wright, head of the U.S. congressioral delegation and House speaker.

[Goryachev] Mr Wright, what problems have you discussed with the general secretary, Gorbachev?

[Wright] Well, we discussed the whole range of issues pending between the United States and the Soviet Union. He was very unrestrained; he was very forthcoming; he was very frank and very candid. We talked about arms control issues. He described the Soviet initiative as it effects intermediate-range and short-range INF missiles. Also, he talked in terms of a planned reduction of other, even conventional, weapons. He talked also of his attitude toward the ABM Treaty and his belief that we must continue to observe it. We agreed that we should. We encouraged him in the continued observance of the SALT II numerical limits even though that treaty was not ratified. We believe that we in the United States will return to an observance of it. We also encouraged him in the belief that we felt our secretary of state and our administration were sincere in the desire to achieve an agreement on short- and medium-range missiles in Europe, reducing them perhaps to the zero point.

[Goryachev] Mr Wright, has the American delegation come out with any new projects for possible Soviet-American cooperatin?

[Wright] Yes, we've offered some suggestions that we might consider; that we might jointly consider projects to explore the Bering Straits, that we might jointly perform some good works in Africa to abate hunger and disease and demonstrate to the world that these two great peoples can work together for peaceful pursuits and not always be eyeing one another with suspicion across fences of bristling armaments. I am guardedly optimistic. I see a more open and forthcoming attitude on the part of the Soviet Union than I have seen in the last 50 years. I believe the chances are better right now than they have been at any time in our modern recollection for us to achieve binding, verifiable and mutual reductions in these deadly armaments.

[Goryachev] Do you believe that the American side should also demonstrate some flexibility?

[Wright] Yes, I do. Without that it isn't possible. It has to be a two-way street.

[Goryachev] Mr Wright, Mr Gorbachev spoke about the desire of the Soviet leadership to broaden people-to-people contacts with the United States. How would you think about this idea?

[Wright] I think it's the very best idea to come along. If we are to have the basis for understanding and for support among the public at large for the broader things that have to be done such as reducing armaments then I think it's important for the people to understand one another. Perfect knowledge drives away fear. The more we know each other the less likely we are to suspect one another; the less likely we are to live in suspicion and fear of one another.

[Goraychev] Mr Wright, would you please describe General Secretary Gorbachev to our listeners? What kind of man is he?

[Wright] I find him to be a thoroughly engaging person -- intelligent, well informed, unafraid, totally willing to enter into the give and take of an exchange, practicing as well as preaching the doctrine of glasnost, welcoming others to talk with him even when they disagree and then entering into a spirited discussion with them. That's the kind of man I find him to be.

[Goryachev] Do you trust Mr Gorbachev?

[Wright] Yes, yes I do. I think he's very sincere. I think he sincerely and earnestly wants to create conditions of peace in which his country and our country both may be more secure.

Dobrynin, Wright Discuss Talks

LD161925 Moscow TASS in English 1739 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 16 TASS -- Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, chairman of the Commission for Foreign Affairs of the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet Anatoliy Dobrynin met today with a delegation of the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress led by Speaker of the House Jim Wright.

A wide range of problems which are of fundamental importance for assuring a stable development of Soviet-American relations, for improving the international situation was discussed in an open [Moscow IASS International Service in Russian in an identical report at 1741 GMT on 16 April uses the word "frank" (otkrovennyy) at this point] and constructive spirit.

Special attention was paid to comprehensive proposals advanced by General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee Mikhail Gorbachev in Prague and in a conversation with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. Anatoliy Dobrynin stressed that the new Soviet proposals opened realistic prospects for concluding a treaty on medium-range missiles and for advancing in other important matters toward a non-violent world without nuclear arms. This opens one more chance for a cardinal turn in international relations.

The American guests, on their part, expressed profound satisfaction with a meeting with Mikhail Gorbachev during which they were thoroughly informed of a peaceful nature of the Soviet Union's foreign policy course, the readiness of the Soviet side to develop relations with the USA on terms of reciprocity. The present level of these relations is not in keeping with either potentialities or obligations of the two countries.

The side noted the importance of continuing an intensive systematic dialogue between representatives of the USSR Supreme Soviet and U.S. congressmen.

Shevardnadze Meets Delegation

PM2000945 PRAVDA in Russian 19 Apr 87 Second Edition p4

[TASS report: "Talk With U.S. Congressman"]

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze, a member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, had a talk 18 April with a delegation of members of the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress, led by James Wright, speaker of the House. The delegation was staying in the Soviet Union at the invitation of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

The talk proceeded in a businesslike and frank [otkrovennyy] atmosphere.

Eduard Shevardnadze set forth the Soviet Union's principled approach to accomplishing the task of a drastic reduction and subsequent elimination of nuclear weapons -- an approach embodied in the program for a nuclear weapon-free world put forward by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in his January 15, 1986, statement and in the position of the Soviet side at the Reykjavik meeting.

In the existing conditions the Soviet Union's innovative initiatives aimed at eliminting medium-range and operational and tactical missiles in Europe are especially important.

The realization of these initiatives which were at the center of the talks with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in Moscow a few days ago would make it possible to make a major step ahead toward decreasing the level of military confrontation on the European Continent, improve the situation in the world as a whole and promote an overall improvement in relations between the USSR and the U.S.

The Soviet minister of foreign affairs then dwelt on the task of settling regional conflicts and singled out, among other things, the existence of a realistic possibility for a political settlement of the situation related to Afghanistan on the basis of the program for national reconciliation formulated by the Government of the DRA.

Eduard Shevardnadze reiterted that the Soviet Union consistently favored a positive development of bilateral contacts and exchanges with the U.S. In this content the importance of the Soviet-U.S. agreement on cooperation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space signed during George Shultz' visit was noted.

The U.S. congressmen agreed that security issues were a top priority matter in relations between the Soviet Union and the United States and that the time was ripe for resolving some of them, specifically, the issue of medium-range missiles in Europe.

The U.S. side expressed support for observing the quantitative limits under SALT II and resolving the problem of terminating nuclear tests. In this content the congressmen highly appraised the moratorium on nuclear explosions the Soviet Union had observed for over 18 months.

The U.S. congressmen said that they support the improvement of Soviet-U.S. relations.

During the meeting some of the congressmen set forth the idea of establishing cooperation between the USSR and the U.S. in providing relief aid to the hunger-stricken people in a number of regions of the world.

In response the Soviet side said that the USSR consider the solution of the problem of hunger to be very important and that it was prepared to develope efficient international cooperation to these ends. It was emphasied that the termination of the arms race and reduction of military spending would release a huge amount of funds for that.

Toriy Dubinin, ambassador of the USSR to the U.S., and Jack F. Matlock, ambassador of the U.S. to the USSR, were present during the talk.

Gromyko Receives Congressmen

PM161057 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Apr 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS Report: "U.S. Congress Delegation in Kremlin"]

[Text] Andrey Gromyko, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee, president of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, received on 15 April in the Kremlin a delegation of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, headed by Speaker James Wright, now on a visit in the Soviet Union on the invitation of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

Characterizing Soviet-U.S. relations Andrey Gromyko said that their complex and contradictory nature should not exert a negative impact on the situation in the whole world. As to the Soviet Union, it is persistently and consistently striving to facilitate the solution of key problems of our time -- rid the world of nuclear weapons, create a reliable system of international security, and banish violence from relations between states.

The Soviet side stressed most categorically that relations between countries, especially major powers, must be built not on the stereotypes guiding the advocates of the arms race but on the principles of peace, the reduction and elimination of nuclear and other kinds of weapons of mass destruction, the inadmissibility of an arms race to space, and the creation of a system of general security.

No country, irrespective of whether it is big or small, should be the target of aggression or outside pressure by another country or a group of countries.

All the proposals, which have been put forward by the Soviet Union in the course of the meetings and talks with the United States, breathe peace. A special place among them is held by those that were demonstrated during the Soviet-U.S. summit meetings in Geneva and Reykjavik. They equally accord with the security interests of both the Soviet Union and the United States as well as of all other states. The Soviet initiatives are based on the most cherished ideas of people all over the world.

The agreement between the USSR and the United States on cooperation in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space, which was signed in Moscow today, is in a certain measure an indicator of the fact that the two powers can, if they wish, bring to a logical end the talks on issues of mutual interest.

The Soviet Union's proposals, set out the other day in Mikhail Gorbachev's speech in Prague, about the Soviet Union's readiness not only to conclude an agreement on the elimination of medium-range missiles in Europe but also to start discussing the question of the reduction and subsequent elimination of operational and tactical missiles deployed in the European continent, attracted the attention of the whole world. These initiatives, alongside the proposals to reduce strategic offensive arms and to prevent the militarization of space pursue profoundly peaceful aims suiting the interests of all humanity.

The Soviet-U.S. talks held these days in Moscow and Mikhail Gorbachev's conversation with George Shultz have shown that the Soviet side has the most serious intentions. As for the U.S. side, what was voiced by George Shultz shows that apparently it has not yet decided on its attitude toward the Soviet proposals. In any case, the views expressed here by the United States secretary of state do not present a basis for an accord.

James Wright expressed regret that during the past period relations between the United States and the Soviet Union were often strained and that in this connection not quite suitable means of contact had to be used. In his opinion both sides would have gained by being more open and less secretive about problems they might have had.

Among the more important U.S. problems, he pointed to a huge domestic debt that would remain outstanding for the next generation of Americans, outsized military spending that needs to be cut, and the balance of payments deficit in foreign trade.

James Wright, Thomas Foley, Democratic majority leader in the House, and Richard Cheney, Republican minority deputy leader in the House, asked a number of questions during the meeting about the Soviet Unions' home and foreign policies.

Answering their questions, Andrey Gromyko told the guests about restructuring in the Soviet Union and about the social and economic acceleration of Soviet society, and stressed the indissoluble connection between the Soviet people's constructive activities in all fields of domestic affairs and the peaceful nature of their country's foreign policy.

The Soviet side specially emphasized the activities aimed at developing and enriching socialist democracy, ensuing from the very nature of the social system in the USSR. Preparedness has also been expressed not only to support but also to broaden the parliamentary ties between the Soviet Union and the United States, which can contribute, in a large measure, to the development of relations between the two countries.

For their part, the American guests expressed interest in the development of bilateral Soviet-U.S. relations along various lines, including interparliamentary contacts, which have been successful recently.

F.N. Demichev, L.N. Tolkunov, A.E. Voss, G.A. Arbatov, and other officials were present at the conversation.

Ligachev Meets Delegation

LD171217 Moscow TASS in English 1139 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 17 TASS -- Yegor Ligachev, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Soviet of the Union of the USSR Supreme Soviet, today received a delegation of the United States Congress headed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives James Wright.

During their substantive conversation Yegor Ligachev was asked by the American congressmen to describe to them in detail the profound transformations that are now under way in the Soviet Union and the plans of the CPSU and the Soviet state to accelerate social and economic development, to renew and further democratise Soviet society.

What is being transformed is the entire life of one of the biggest powers in the world, moreover a socialist power that was the first to embark on the road of socialism, Yegor Ligachev stressed. The scope and scale of the transformations transcend far beyond the customary and millions of people, all the social strata of Soviet society, the more than hundred nations and nationalities of the country have been drawn into them.

Moreover, the process of restructuring is revolutionary and fundamental by its nature, multifaceted. This includes the dismantling of the braking mechanism, the creation of a reliable and effective mechanism of accelerating Soviet society's socio-economic development. This also includes the priority development of the social sphere, the fuller satisfaction of the requirements and needs of Soviet people. And this also includes the vigorous overcoming of distortions of socialist morality, a consistent implementation of the principles of social justice. The potential of the people is being put in motion and all energies of the working masses are being freed for the transformations.

The transformations are inseparable from the Soviet people's accomplishments of previous decades and the strengthening of the gains of the Great October Socialist Revolution. Soviet society is firmly advancing along the road of socialism and confirming its fidelity to socialist ideals. The meaning of our efforts is to make full use of socialism's potential. This is not to the liking of some people in the West. They would want something that would mean departure from socialism. But our political and ideological adversaries are waiting in vain for even the slightest deviation by us from the Leninist, socialist principles.

Yegor Ligachev stressed the unbending resolve of the CPSU and the entire Soviet people to continue and bring to completion the cause of renewal. Of course, it is not only successes that we are encountering on the road of restructuring. There have been and evidently will be difficulties and setbacks. But the main thing is that both in the party and among the people there have been no and are no hesitations about whether to carry out the restructuring or not, he said.

Yegor Ligachev also dwelt on the international aspect of the profound changes in the Soviet Union. The restructuring is unbreakably linked with the USSR's vigorous peaceloving policy. On the one hand, its scope depends on the reliability of peace, on the stability of the international situation. On the other hand, the renewal imparts still greater dynamism and intensity to the foreign policy activity of the CPSU and the Soviet state, strengthens the foundation of their struggle for peace.

The Soviet Union invariably displays political will and takes practical steps to solve key international problems. The proposals made by Mikhail Gorbachev in his speech in Prague and in the conversation with the United States Secretary of State George Shultz are added evidence of this. They open up new possibilities for finding solutions to key problems of arms limitation and reduction, for a cardinal change in international relations. Will these possibilities be translated into reality, and if they will, then how soon? This depends entirely on the United States now, Yegor Ligachev said.

It was noted from both sides that a vast field of possibilities exists for improving and deepening Soviet-American relations. The importance of stepping up concrete efforts in the search of ways of ensuring a peaceful nature of relations between the USSR and the United States for the good of the peoples of both countries and in the name of mankind's survival was stressed.

Present at the conversation were chairman of the Soviet of the Union of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR Lev Tolkunov, deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR Georgiy Arbatov and the ambassador of the United States in the USSR Jack Matlock.

Arbatov, Congressmen Hold Talks

LD161846 Moscow TASS in English 1838 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 16 TASS -- Relations between the USA and the USSR over many years were marked by mistrust, mutual suspiciousness and apprehension. This state of affairs must be altered. Member of the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congressmen Sherwood Boehlert said this today during a debate in the working group on bilateral Soviet-American relations. The delegation is staying here on an official visit at the invitation of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet. Congressman Boehlert said that when he had been going to the USSR he hoped to learn if openness really existed there or if it was merely propaganda.

He said that on the basis of what he had seen and heard he had arrived at the conclusion that openness really existed. He said that one of the manifestations of such openness was the fact that the Soviet authorities promptly gave an opportunity to three American congressmen to visit Chernobyl and familiarise themselves with the state of affairs on the spot.

Noting that the Soviet Union has done everything possible to remove the consequences of the accident at the Chernobyl Atomic Power Station, Boehlert said that in the international scientific circles the USSR has been commended for the way it was tackling the Chernobyl problem.

Pointing to the danger of the arms race, Boehlert declared that a part of the funds now spent on military programmes should be transferred for the needs of scientific research, for measures of environmental protection. Instead of spending funds on cruise and Pershing missiles I would like the U.S. Government to appropriate more funds for scientific research, for construction, for instance, of a centre to study atmospheric phenomena, he said. People are dying of hunger and diseases at a time when billions of dollars are spent on bombs and cannons that are of no use for humanity, he said. He declared for broad development of cooperation in the sphere of medicine.

Our countries can live in friendship, said Congressman Leland who took part in the debate. He declared for the development of cooperation between the USA and the USSR. He, specifically, suggested that the United States and the Soviet Union jointly give assistance to those African countries which experience serious shortages of food, where millions of people are on the verge of dying of hunger. 40 thousand people die of hunger every day, he said. This means that 28 people die every minute, and 21 of them are children. The two countries can help overcome this problem.

Deputy of the USSR Supreme Soviet Georgiy Arbatov, who was present at the meeting, said that the Soviet Union admits the fact that superpowers are responsible for rendering assistance to the poorest countries, also in overcoming the problem of famine. At the same time, this aid must not be of a charitable nature, he said. "We should create the conditions which would enable those countries to participate actively in the international division of labour. We must press for the establishment of a new international economic order."

I was greatly impressed by openness, the striving of Soviet people for publicity, said Congressman Watkins. This is clearly a sincere feeling. It comes from the heart. We must build the bridges of friendship between our two countries, he said. The congressman called for the development of contacts between parliamentarians of the USA and the USSR. We are interested in the exchange, and not only of parliamentarians, but also of students, medics, economists, he said.

Honesty and openness are needed in dealing with each other, said Deputy of the USSR Supreme Soviet Yuriy Izrayel. He noted that there are global problems, such as the change of the climate, world ocean pollution and partial destruction of the ozone layer of the atmosphere. The USSR and the USA can promote the solution of these problems.

Yuriy Izrayel said parliamentarians of the two countries should pay more attention to questions of environmental protectin on which it largely depends in what kind of world the succeeding generations will live. Yuriy Izrayel proposed that scientists of the two countries should start working out concrete and practical recommendations which would make it possible to embark on the solution of global problems of environmental protection.

Congressman Tony Coelho declared in favour of overcoming differences and reaching concrete arrangements on various aspects. He proposed to come to terms on holding joint parliamentary debates via satellite communication on a range of problems.

At the same time, the Soviet side noted during the discussion that the recent years had seen a slump in commercial and economic relations between the USSR and the USA. Deputy of the USSR Supreme Soviet Nikolay Komarov said that the volume of trade between the two countries by now cut by half as compared with 1984-1985. Deputy Komarov noted that Washington is to blame for the curatsilment of trade between the USSR and the USA. Washington puts up artificial obstacles to trade. When asked in what way the American legislators can help remove these obstacles, the members of the U.S. delegation anweeed that the right-wing circles are very strong in the Congress both among the Democrats and the Republicans and they hamper the development of commercial ties with the USSR. These are politics pure and simple, Tony Coelho said.

Shcherbitskiy Receives U.S. Delegation

LD131930 Moscow TASS in English 1909 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Text] Kiev April 13 TASS — The delegation of the U.S. House of Representatives led by House Speaker Jim Wright has arrived in Kiev, the capital of the Soviet Ukraine. The guests are currently on a visit in the Soviet Union at the invitation of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

The guests from the United States met with Vladimir Shcherbitskiy, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, first secretary of the Communist Party of the Ukraine Central Committee.

The Presidium gave a dinner in honour of the U.S. congressmen.

Delegation Visits Chernobyl

LD160914 Kiev Domestic Service in Ukrainian 0215 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] The delegation of the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress that arrived in our country at the invitation of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, has been familiarizing itself with the Ukraine for 2 days. The congressmen visited Obukhov Rayon in Kiev Oblast where they were shown an animal husbandry complex at the 25th Congress of the CPSU sovkhoz. During the conversation they held with the farm management, the guests showed interest in the working and living conditions of workers and the state of housing at the farm.

A group of congressmen visited Chernobyl AES, where they were told about how the work to eliminate the aftermath of he accident was carried out. They were also briefed on the work of two power units and [words indistinct]

Members of the delegation laid wreaths on behalf of the U.S. Congress on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Eternal Glory Park. They observed a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of Soviet soldiers who gave their lives for the freedom of their motherland and liberation of humankind from fascism. The guests toured the city and saw new housing developments and architectural and historic sites.

The delegation left for Moscow yesterday. At Borispol Airport where state flags of the United States, USSR, and Ukrainian SSR were raised, the parliamentarians were seen off by Kostyk, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Ukrainian SSR, and Zgurskiy, chairman of Kiev Town Executive Committee.

Arbatov, deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, who was accompanying the guests on the trip, has also left Kiev.

Luncheon in Kremlin

LD161251 Moscow TASS in English 1203 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 16 TASS -- The chairman of the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet today gave in the Kremlin a luncheon in honour of the delegation of the House of Representatives of U.S. congress on an official visit to the Soviet Union.

Welcoming the visitors, Lev Tolkunov, chairman of the Soviet of the Union of the USSR Supreme Soviet, said: "Our ideal is a nuclear-free world. It is a world living without fear of nuclear catastrophe that is the goal of an historical statement made by Mikhail Gorbachev on January 15, 1986, the resolutions of the 27th congress of our party and many other foreign-policy initiatives of the Soviet state."

The USSR, he continued, suggests that medium-range missiles in Europe should be eliminated. We also are ready to eliminate shorter-range missiles. The USSR agrees that research into air defences can be conducted on the condition that it is confined to laboratories, and proposes that work should begin to formulate the key principles of further talks on the strategic triad, the regime of the ABM Treaty and nuclear testing.

Progress in each of these major areas is possible and an important role in achieving it can be played by the highest legislative bodies of our countries, by all parliamentarians. Our duty is to do everything we can to ensure a life of calm and peace for the present and future generations.

Speaking on behalf of the delegation of U.S. Congress, the delegation leader, House Speaker Jim Wright (Democrat, Texas), stressed the importance of the comprehensive development of Soviet-American relations. He said that the delegation had read with interest the speech made by Mikhail Gorbachev in Prague the other day. He added that there was no single way to peace and social development, that there were different ways and that individual countries were free to choose any.

Jim Wright said that the stereotypes of the USSR as an aggressive state, common in the West, including the U.S., were wrong. Some people in the U.S., he said, still see the communists as people brandishing arms and dreaming of conquests. Wright ridiculed the tales current in the U.S. about the suppression of religion in the Soviet Union.

The delegation leader stressed in conclusion that all people today wanted to live in a world free from wars, violence and nuclear weapons.

Tolkunov Welcomes Congressmen

LD151456 Moscow TASS in English 1343 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 15 TASS -- A delegation of the House of Representatives of U.S. Congress on an official visit to the Soviet Union and the leadership of the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet today had a meeting at the Kremlin.

Welcoming the American guests, Lev Tolkunov, chairman of the Soviet of the Union of the USSR Supreme Soviet, said: "What has brought us together at this table? It is awareness of the castastrophic consequences of a possible nuclear conflict and concern for the survival of humanity. Despite our differences of outlook, some of them fundamental, we all are aware of the value and importance of dialogue and the vital need for an improvement in Soviet-American relations, an improvement without which life of peace is unthinkable." We stand for normal and stable relations between our social systems and ideologies should not lead to tension in our relations.

It is our conviction that both powers should gear their policies to mutual understanding rather than hostility.

Lev Tolkunov noted that the present situation offered no other alternative. The survival of humanity has become the imperative of our age. There is a need for a new philosophy of international relations and a new mode of thinking. The chairman of the Soviet of the Union drew attention to the Soviet program for building a nuclear weapon-free world, the program for the elimination of all weapons of mass annihilation by the end of the century. "We are ready to eliminate medium-range, shorter range and battlefield missiles in Europe, ban chemical weapons and destroy their arsenals, substantially reduce conventional armaments and armed forces in Europe, and reintroduce a moratorium on nuclear explosions."

Speaking on behalf of the American delegation, its leader, Jim Wright, speaker of the House of Representatives of U.S. Congress, said that the American congressmen were seeking to discuss the most complex problem, that of preserving peace, which should be tackled with a determination like that displayed by our countries in fighting Nazism. "Peace is not simply an absence of war. Rather the fact is that peace is a positive factor and a condition required for the fulfillment of the purposes of men and women all over the world," he stressed. "This morning our group has visited the Tomb of the Unknown Soviet Soldier and the Lenin Mausoleum and paid our tribute to the heroes of the Soviet Union. Some of this delegation were engaged in the Second World War along with members of your Armed Forces.... I turned back and looked at the faces of the young men standing guard at the Mausoleum."

"And as I saw them I thought of those who died in defense of the freedom of this great nation against the barbarous hordes of Nazism."

The leader of the American delegation said furthermore: "We have, I believe, an unrivaled opportunity to create conditions for a more peaceful world so that the children of the generation of those young men who stood guard at the Mausoleum could have peace."

Turning to contacts between the USSR and the U.S. at different levels, including the summit level, Jim Wright said:

"We hope that the results of those talks and subsequent talks which we hope will be held between your general secretary Mr Gorbachev and our President Mr Reagan will produce a mutual and verifiable reduction in all armaments on your part and on our part and ultimately we may begin both of us to devote a greater proportion of our resources to the attainment of noble human aims."

"I have read with great interest the speech that was made in Czechoslovakia only a few days ago by Mr Gorbachev and we have heard the new spirit of openness and your new efforts to restructure and strengthen your economy and your social system."

The House speaker said that he had visited the Soviet Union 15 years previously and had now seen immense progress. He thanked the Soviet hosts for the opportunity for several delegation members to go out to Chernobyl, where they had got answers to all their questions. He characterised this as an example of openness and candour on the Soviet side. "We have tired of spending 300 billion dollars a year on military strength."

"It seems foolish we should be building debts, borrowing from our children and grandchildren in order to build weapons which will be used in war now and of which they will have no use."

"How many young Soviet citizens and how many young Americans could be given a higher education with just a fraction of what we are spending? And there are many people who will die of disease and plague and of the new disease AIDS who could have been saved. What a great thing it would be if next year we in the United States and you in the Soviet Union jointly were able to spend less on military strength."

"It is my belief that we will build bridges and tear down the walls that divide us, the walls of alienation, hostility, misunderstanding and mistrust, and use those bricks that have been in those walls to build bridges and highways of better communication."

Wright Hosts Dinner

LD171737 Moscow TASS in English 1700 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 17 TASS -- A Texas chili dinner to the great delight of those invited to it was hosted today at the American Embassy by James Wright, speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress. He heads a delegation of the House now staying on an official visit in the Soviet Union at the invitation of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

The dinner was devoted to this visit.

The congressmen and representatives of the Soviet Parliament, who have held in Moscow a series of indepth, at times sharp but invariably constructive discussions on cardinal problems of Soviet-American relations, arms reduction and disarmament, humanitarian and other issues, got yet another possibility to meet, this time informally.

The atmosphere of mutual goodwill, that marked the official discussions, reigned at the Texas chili dinner as well.

MINISTER SAYS NO RECENT RADIATION LEAKS MONITORED

LD151129 Moscow TASS in English 1051 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Tokyo April 15 TASS -- The system of Soviet radiation monitoring stations has not registered any release of radioactivity on Soviet territory in the recent period, Nikolay Lukonin, minister of atomic power engineering of the USSR, said today. Lukonin is leading the Soviet delegation to the annual conference of the Japanese atomic industry forum.

Nikolay Lukonin told the media at a news conference about the Soviet program for the development of nuclear plants safe.

The minister characterized as absolutely groundless the allegations of some Western mass media about a release of radioactivity on Soviet territory. Continuous and thorough monitoring of the radiation situation is being carried out in the Soviet Union, he said, and no emissions into the environment, including those from underground nuclear tests (which the Soviet Union had to resume after its 18-month moratorium) have been recorded.

Further Details

LD152127 Moscow TASS in English 2058 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Tokyo April 15 TASS -- By TASS correspondent Vladimir Kuchko:

As a result of the comprehensive measures taken by the Soviet Union, the situation in the area of the Chernobyl nuclear power station has returned to normal. The several thousand inhabitants, who were evacuated after the accident at the station in April last year, have already returned to their home parts. A total of 135 thousand people were evacuated. Soon, the settlement will be started of the 28 communities in the 30 kilometre zone, said Nikolay Lukonin, USSR Minister of the nuclear power industry. He leads the Soviet delegation currently attending the annual conference of the Japanese nuclear industry forum.

Addressing a press conference today, the Soviet minister briefed newsmen on the Soviet programme for the development of nuclear power engineering, the comprehensive measures to enhance the safety of nuclear plants and eliminate the consequence of the accident in Chernobyl.

Two power plants have been put into operation at the station, he said. Their operation has been proof of their high reliability. Repair and restoration work is nearing completion at the third power plant. Permanent control is exercised at the shutdown fourth power plant over the stabilised state of the fuel mass as regards the temperature and the level of the gamma background in the space adjoining the reactor. A settlement is being built for the permanent residence of the nuclear power station's personnel. Already this year the first group of specialists and workers of the nuclear power station will be given accomodation in it.

Dams with a total length of 130 kilometres, which were built in advance, made it possible to prevent successfully the carry-over of radioactive substances from the soil surface and contamination of the Pripyat and Dnieper Rivers during the freshet this spring. The spring flood is past its peak and there has been practically no carry-over of radioactivity.

Permanent comprehensive control is ensured of the state of health of the inhabitants and of the ecological situation in the area of the location of the Chernobyl nuclear power station. More than 930 thousand persons have been examined, and I can officially say that no deviation from the norm in people of different ages, including new-born babies, who stayed in the area of Chernobyl, has been registered, Nikolay Lukonin said. The Soviet minister described as "totally unfounded" the claims of some western mass media about some sharp increase after the accident at the nuclear power plant in the number of cancer cases among the local population.

Touching upon the measures under way in the Soviet Union to increase the safety of nuclear power plants, to perfect the power generating sets of nuclear power plants, the head of the Soviet delegation pointed out that this work provides for the total exclusion of radioactive releases outside the reactor enclosure into the environment, even if a melting of the active zone occurs for some reason.

FURTHER ON U.S. NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN JAPAN

LD152235 Moscow TASS in English 1311 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Tokyo April 15 TASS -- A secret understanding on the introduction of American nuclear weapons into Japan was sealed in a special "working memorandum" which exists in two copies kept in Washington and Tokyo. Arthur Barber, a former U.S. deputy assistant secretary of defense for international security, told the newspaper AKAHATA.

He said he had personally seen the classified document during his service at the Pentagon in the '60's.

Barber said the "working memorandum" gave U.S. nuclear-armed warships the right to use Japanese port facilities freely and also provided for possible talks on U.S. nuclear weapon deployments on Japanese territory.

He said Tokyo was well aware of the Japanese-American agreement.

That gave AKAHATA grounds for accusing Japanese authorities of deliberately misleading public opinion when claiming they had meticulously enforced a ban on the entry of nuclear arms in this country.

Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone and Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari said in parliament in response to a query from Mitsuhiro Kaneko, chairman of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Japan, that there were no bilateral agreements on the issue.

The government of the Liberal Democratic Party denies the secret understanding with Washington contrary to hard facts.

The press last week published a secret directive by former U.S. Secretary of State Dean Rusk, dated February 24, 1966, which spoke bluntly of confidential arrangements between Tokyo and Washington on the introduction of American nuclear weapons into Japan.

The authenticity of the directive was confirmed by Edwin Reischauer, at the time U.S. ambassador to Tokyo.

FIRST TROOPS WITHDRAWN FROM MONGOLIA RETURN HOME

LD131938 Moscow in English to Great Britain and Ireland 1900 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Text] The first trainful of soldiers returning from Mongolia has arrived at the Naushki border station in the Soviet autonomous Republic of Buryatia. This is the beginning of an earlier announed pull-out of a motorized infantry division and several army units of the Soviet troops which are temporarily stationed in Mongolia. The withdrawal is being carried out in connection with a decision of the Soviet Government and its agreement with Mongolia's leadership.

Farewell Ceremony Held

LD161142 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0610 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 16 Apr (TASS) -- TASS correspondent Kim Boldokhonov reports:

A farewell ceremony for units of Soviet troops on their way home after their provisional stay in the Mongolian People's Republic [MPR] was held today in Suhbaatar, a border town in northern Mongolia. Their departure is in accordance with the decision by the Soviet leadership and in agreement with the Government of the MPR.

A mass meeting was held in the town square. Officers and men of the Mongolian People's Army came to see off their brothers-in-arms. Also there were working people of the republic, war and labor veterans, members of the Revolutionary Youth League, and pioneers. In a solemn atmosphere, servicemen of the fraternal armies exchanged commemorative banners.

Tserendashiyn Namsray, member of the Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, chairman of the Central Council of the Mongolian-Soviet Friendship Society, spoke at the meeting. We note with gratitude, he said, that the Soviet servicemen have fulfilled their international duty with honor. They have won the deep respect and love of the Mongolian people.

Moscow Mandarin Commentary

OW140726 Moscow in Mandarin to China 1500 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Mulatov commentary]

[Text] We have already reported that at the end of last week a motorized infantry division and several other units of the Soviet troops temporarily stationed in the territory of the Mongolian People's Republic began their pullout from that country back to the USSR. The Soviet leadership has made this decision on the basis of an accord with the Government of the Mongolian People's Republic [MPR].

In this regard, our station's observer Mulatov points out: It was last summer that Soviet leader Gorbachev announced in his speech at Vladivostok that the USSR and Mongolia had prepared themselves for the decision now being carried out. The accord to withdraw a large number of Soviet troops from Mongolia has been implemented accurately, following the prescribed order.

The Mongolian leaders and the people's representatives have expressed sincere appreciation on behalf of the Mongolian people to the Soviet officers and soldiers returning home for having fulfilled their own internationalist obligations. The mutual understanding and trust between the two fraternal socialist countries have brought about new development and new [word indistinct]. Above all, the Soviet Union and Mongolia have made effective contributions to creating an atmosphere of trust, good-neighbourliness, and cooperation in the Far East, not only in words alone, but also in deeds. This, in addition, fully concerns their mutual relationships with China.

Dear listeners, I would like to remind you of one thing in particular. In his Vladivostok speech, Comrade Gorbachev has advocated that the Soviets unite with the Chinese in making joint efforts to utilize the most abundant resources in the border Amur River basin. Now you have realized that this is not merely empty talk or dreaming. After that, in fact, the Soviet Union and China have held consultations on all kinds of issues concerning cooperation in border areas, have signed a series of specific agreement, have started the concrete work of the common plan for realizing economic cooperation in the Amur River basin, and have resumed border talks that will continue to be held in the future. Living up to one's word is regarded by the Soviet Union as a rule in its relationships with other countries.

U.S. Causing 'Dangerous Tension'

LD151222 Moscow World Service in English 1310 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Excerpts] The Soviet Union has begun withdrawing part of its troops Mongolia temporarily deployed there. It's doing so by agreement with the Mongolian Government. Yurig Solton comments, and writes:

Let me remind you that the Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev announced a major troop withdrawal from Mongolia in his speech in Vladivostok last summer. He then suggested a comprehensive and specific program for strengthening security in Asia and the Pacific.

The Soviet Union has acted on its words. The current troop withdrawal from Mongolia is one example. But there are many other: The USSR has recalled six regiments from Afghanistan and coordinated a timetable for the withdrawal of the entire troop contingent from that country. The withdrawal will begin as soon as armed interference in Afghanistan's affairs is stopped and guarantees are given that it will not resume. The Soviet Union, alongside China, has signed protocols on respect for a treaty declaring the South Pacific as nuclear-free. It has said that it is prepared to discuss with China concrete steps to proportionately reduce the two countries' ground forces. The latest Soviet proposal, for the removal of Soviet and American medium-range missiles from Europe incorporates a major cut in such missiles in Asia.

In a word, the Soviet Union has not simply been speaking of the need to strengthen security in Asia and the Pacific but it has been doing a great deal to this end, giving an example to others. However, unilateral measures are unable to stop militarization and the growth of military threat in that part of the world. There has to be goodwill on the part of other nations, in the first place the United States. Regrettably there have been no signs that Washington would change its current policy aimed at greater military and nuclear presence in Asia and the Pacific. This is the main source of dangerous tension in the region.

ALIYEV, MEDVEDEV AT DPRK EMBASSY RECEPTION

LD132148 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1800 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Text] DPRK Ambassador to the USSR Kwon Hui-kyong today hosted a reception on the occasion of the 75th brithday of Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Korean Workers' Party and president of the DPRK. The reception was attended by: Comrade Aliyev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers; Comrade Medvedev, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; Comrade Voskanyan, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; and other officials.

TASS NOTES DPRK REACTION TO U.S. EXERCISES

LD162138 Moscow TASS in English 1137 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] Pyongyang April 14 TASS — The working people of Democratic Korea have reacted with anger and indignation to Washington's hawkish statements that the United States will not refrain from using nuclear weapons in an armed conflict on the Korean Peninsula, the Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Homeland says in a statement here.

At a time when Democratic Korea is making concrete initiatives to secure an end to large-scale military exercises on the Korean Peninsula and to turn it into a nuclear-free zone of peace, U.S. imperialism and its Seoul stooges are carrying on war preparations and aggravating tensions.

The Team Spirit-87 exercises going on in South Korea are unprecedentedly large-scale: U.S. nuclear systems and an E-4B plane, an aerial command post designed to be used by the U.S. President in war, are taking part in the exercises.

But Washington's war preparations are coming against the strong rebuff of the forces of peace and progress, opposed to the nuclear arms race and working for the abolition of weapons of mass annihilation, the committee says.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS SENT TO DPRK'S KIM IL-SONG

PM151219 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Apr 87 Second Edition p 1

[CPSU Central Committee, USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium congratulate DPRK's Kim Il-song on his birthday]

[Text] To Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Workers Party of Korea Central Committee and president of the DPRK

Esteemed Comrade Kim Il-song!
The CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium cordially congratulate you, outstanding party and state leader of the DPRK and prominent figure in the international communist and workers movement, on your 75th birthday.

Your entire activity is closely linked with the Korean people's struggle against foreign colonial rule and imperialism's aggressive intrigues and for freedom and independence. [paragraph continues]

You devote much effort to the cause of strengthening the Workers Party of Korea, the DPRK, and the country's economic potential and enhancing the Korean people's material and cultural living standards. The DPRK's constructive initiatives aimed at easing tension on the Korean Peninsula and solving the problem of uniting the country by peaceful democratic means receive broad recognition and active support in the international arena.

The Soviet Union values highly your contribution to strengthening the relations of friendship and cooperation between the peoples of the USSR and the DPRK based on the firm foundation of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, as well as your efforts in the interests of activating the struggle of the world's democratic forces against the imperialist policy of the arms race and of unleashing military conflicts.

We wish you, dear Comrade Kim Il-song, good health and great new successes in work for the good of the fraternal Korean people, peace, and socialism.

CPSU Central Committee
USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium

Awarded Order of Lenin

PM151213 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Apr 87 Second Edition p 1

[USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium decree dated 14 April "On Awarding the Order of Lenin to Comrade Kim Il-song, General Secretary of the Workers Party of Korea Central Committee and President of the DPRK"]

[Text] Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Workers Party of Korea Central Committee and president of the DPRK, is awarded the order of Lenin for outstanding services in developing fraternal friendship and cooperation between the peoples of the USSR and the DPRK, for his great contribution to the cause of strengthening peace and socialism, and in connection with his 75th birthday.

A. Gromyko, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

T. Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

SOVIET EFFORTS FOR KOREAN REUNIFICATION RECALLED

SK140224 Moscow International Service in Korean 0930 GMT 10 Apr 87

[Text] Some time ago the recollections by (Valentin Petukhov), a Soviet diplomat and scholar of eastern studies, entitled "The Beginning of the Struggle for Reunification and Independence of Korea," was published in Moscow.

He participated in the work of the USSR-U.S. Joint Committee formed in 1947 for the resolution of the Korean issue and worked in the Soviet Embassy in the DPRK during the 1949-1952 period. He was also a member of the Soviet delegation to the 1954 Geneva conference which discussed the Korean issue.

This hour we will introduce the gist of some parts of his recollections. (Petukhov) wrote as follows: The USSR-U.S. Joint Committee began its work in Seoul in 1946. The committee's task was to implement the decisions of the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Soviet Union, the United States, and Britain to again make Korea a unified and independent state. However, because of the United States, the committee failed to reach any decision on the basis of mutual agreement.

Explaining the U.S (?attitude) toward the work of this committee in 1947, he noted: The United States persistently opposed the participation of a number of democratic organizations in North and South Korea in the planned election. The U.S Army command in South Korea attempted to ensure in advance that U.S. stooges would win two-thirds of the seats in the National Assembly, which was to be formed.

The talks proceeded in an atmosphere of unrest. The Soviet Mission was attacked by burglars many times to the indifference of the U.S ruling authorities, and functionaries of the Soviet side to the joint committee were kidnapped, imprisoned, and even tortured. Finally, in the summer of 1947, the U.S side rejected the decision agreed upon in Moscow.

In other words, the U.S. side put forward a plan to separately conduct parliamentary elections in the North and South. Facing such a situation, the Soviet delegation was obliged to leave Seoul in October 1947.

(Petukhov) wrote on the work of the Soviet Embassy in the DPRK, on the success won for the first time by the Korean people in economic development, and on the organs for comprehensive cooperation between the Soviet Union and Korea in the cultural and other fields. He also wrote on the visit of the Soviet writers' delegation headed by (Nikolay Tikhonov) and (Nikolay Tribachev) to People's Korea, and on performance of dramas written by Soviet play writers (Kornichok) and (Pleniev) in Pyongyang. He noted that approximately 100,000 people saw the dramas.

Readers of this book will become aware of the work of the Soviet Embassy during the 1950-53 period of the fatherland liberation war.

(Petukhov) wrote about the savage bombings by the U.S. Air Force, about destruction of houses and the massacre of peaceful residents by U.S. bombing, as well as the murder of functionaries of the Soviet Embassy.

He continued: As the result of this, the Soviet Union closed its embassy in Andong, China, across the Yalu River. In January 1951 Soviet diplomats returned to Pyongyang, which had been reduced to wasteland.

The remarks of (Petukhov) on the work of the Geneva Conference for the Korean issue will attract people's attention. The Geneva conference was convened after the U.S. side broke the convocation of political talks on the Korean issue as stipulated in the Armistice Agreement concluded in Panmunjom. The delegations of the five UN Security Council member states, and of People's Korea and of South Korea attended in this conference.

He also pointed out that the delegations of the (?west) disturbed the conference and that the delegation of the Syngman Rhee regime played an ugly role in this conference. They called for the indefinite occupation of South Korea by U.S. troops and opposed the holding of free elections.

He wrote: The United States and its allies exercised a negative influence over the results of the Geneva Conference. However, the Soviet Union did its utmost to help the peaceful and democratic reunification of Korea.

PRAVDA ISSUES STATEMENT ON AFGHANISTAN SITUATION

LD181752 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Apr 87 Second Edition p 4

["TASS Statement"]

[Text] Current developments in and around Afghanistan are riveting international attention. This is only natural. A policy of national reconciliation is being carried out in that country and is winning ever broader support among all sections of the population and evoking a positive international response.

A nationwide dialogue involving representatives of different political forces is gradually gathering momentum. It is known that armed struggle has already been renounced by many thousands of its participants, dozens of opposition groups, and talks are under way with others on an end to military activities.

Some 40,000 Afghans who earlier found themselves abroad have now returned to Afghanistan.

It is also encouraging that thanks to the constructive stand taken by Democratic Afghanistan, substantial headway has been made also towards a political settlement of the situation regarding that country.

Thus, a realistic possibility appeared at long last for bringing long-awaited peace and tranquility to Afghan soil and for eliminating the dangerous seat of tension almost in the very center of Asia. This would undoubtedly come in line with the interests of not only the Afghan people, but also of all those who are sincerely interested in following the road of detente and pushing for the settlement of the existing conflict situations.

However, these processes are running into a fierce resistance of those forces, primarily external forces, which are unwilling to leave Afghanistan alone. They are angered by the fact that events in Afghanistan are developing in a way different from the one they would like to see and that they are compelled to retreat before the will of the Afghan people, which has resolutely chosen a road of peace for itself.

Seeking to preserve tension in the region, they are out to delay [zatormozif] a political settlement of the situation concerning Afghanistan and stem the positive trends now emerging there.

Outside interference is continuing and at times becoming even more dangerous in nature.

While the Afghan Government has proclaimed and is observing a ceasefire, the bandits have continued to receive ever further batches of arms, including newest weapons such as U.S. antiaircraft Stinger missiles.

It has become known that the U.S. Administration last March decided to supply the Afghan dushmans with 600 such missiles and a considerable part of them has already been delivered to the counterrevolutionary groups.

With the help of foreign instructors, the training of Afghan dushmans in special camps on Pakistani territory has been stepped up.

Bandits open fire on cities and villages, stage explosions and acts of arson, down civilian planes and strive to intimidate with brutal reprisals those who stand for the reconciliation of all Afghans.

Things go as far as the staging of challenging criminal acts with respect to Soviet territory. As is known, the Soviet frontier settlement of Piandzh came under fire in March this year. On the night of April 8-9, 1987 a band of Afghan dushmans trespassed the Soviet frontier, having crossed the Piandzh River, and attacked a detachment of Soviet border guards. Repelled and having suffered heavy casualties, the band retreated in disarray. Two Soviet border guards died, fighting off the attack.

TASS is authorized to state that the Soviet side will take every necessary measure to stop any infringements on the inviolability of the frontiers of the U.S.S.R.

The entire responsibility for the consequences shall rest with those who, continuing armed interference in the affairs of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, have recourse to such provocations.

There is no doubt that attempts at thwarting the course toward national reconciliation in Afghanistan and toward a dependable political settlement are doomed to failure. The guarantee of that is the determination of the Afghan people and a consistent policy pursued by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. The friendly neighboring country can count on the Soviet Union's firm support in the future as well.

PLAN TO REPEL 'ARMED REBELS' FROM PAKISTAN VIEWED

LD192111 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 19 Apr 87

[From the "Vremya" newscast; M. Leshchinskiy video report from Afghanistan]

[Text] The process of national reconciliation in Afghanistan is coming up against fierce opposition from forces -- primarily external forces -- that will not leave the Afghan people in peace. This report comes from a region approximately 50 km from the Pakistani border. Over there, beyond those white-capped mountains, lies Pakistan. It was from here yesterday reports were received that a large group of armed rebels -- about 500 -- had infiltrated from Pakistan. During the night Afghan and Soviet subunits carried out a concealed march and, as you can hear, destructive rocket and conventional fire was opened at dawn. [Video shows Leshchinskiy standing at foothills of mountains; artillery fire is heard in background. Leshchinskiy thrusts microphone in front of Afghan soldier in uniform who is pointing to a map]

Comrade Colonel, what is the corps' task in this operation?

[Afghan colonel, with translation by Leshchinskiy superimposed] Explaining the military task on the map, Colonel (Shahakaz), chief of staff of the First Afghan Army Corps, said that this operation is being conducted on the special instructions of the Supreme Extraordinary Commission for National Reconciliation. After air reconnaissance discovered a major base region named (Milawa), we turned to the Soviet command with a request for artillery, air, and landing force assistance. The landing force was inserted right onto the bandits, who were taken by surprise. Retribution caught up with them at firing positions, in dugouts, and in communication tunnels. The old soldier's rule is being confirmed again and again on Afghan soil: If the enemy doesn't give in, he will be destroyed.

REPORTAGE ON DRA VISIT OF KATUSHEV-LED DELEGATION

Delegation Arrives 15 Apr

LD151512 Moscow TASS in English 0849 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Kabul April 15 TASS -- A Soviet delegation led by Konstantin Katushev, chairman of the U.S.S.R. State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, arrived in Kabul for a working visit today.

The delegation will meet with the leadership of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan (D.R.A.), hold talks on the development of economic relations between the two countries and sign a series of documents.

The delegation will also attend an all-Afghanistan conference of private business owners, take part in the ceremony of putting a casting facility into service at the Jangalak [as received] plant and in the inauguration of a blood transfusion station.

At the Kabul Airport the delegation was greeted by Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, a member of the Politbureau of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the D.R.A., and other officials.

Najibullah Received Katushev

LD161735 Moscow TASS in English 1626 GMT 16 Apr 87

[Text] Kabul April 16 TASS -- The general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Najib today received a Soviet delegation headed by the chairman of the USSR State Committee for External Economic Ties Konstantin Katushev, now on a working visit here on the Afghan Government's invitation.

As reported by BAKHTAR Agency, questions of further developing economic and technical cooperation between the two countries were discussed.

Present at the meeting were secretary of the PDPA Central Committee Niaz Mohmand, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, chairman of the State Planning Committee of the DRA Mohammad Aziz and the USSR Ambassador in the DRA Pavel Mozhayev.

Keshtmand Meets With Katushev

LD151823 Moscow TASS in English 1757 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Kabul April 15 TASS -- Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, a member of the Politburo of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan (DRA), today met Konstantin Katushev, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations.

Katushev arrived in the DRA on a working visit at the head of the Soviet Government delegation. It was invited by the Afghan Government.

During the meeting, which passed in an atmosphere of friendship, the sides exchanged views on issues of advancing further economic and technical cooperation between the two countries.

Cooperation Agreement Signed

LD181650 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1542 GMT 18 Apr 87

[Text] Kabul, 18 Apr (TASS) -- K.F. Katushev, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, who is in Kabul, and S.A. Keshtmand, chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, signed an agreement between the USSR and DRA Governments on economic and technical cooperation in constructing projects in the DRA involving participation of the Afghan private sector. According to the document, the USSR will extend the DRA credit on preferential terms. Soviet organizations will carry out required design and research work, will supply equipment, materials and spares, and will render assistance in assembling, adjusting, and commissioning the equipment. In accordance with a signed protocol attached to the agreement, a bakery and a bicycle-assembly enterprise in Kabul, a mill in Shibirgan, and a tannery and shoe factory in Mazar-e Sharif are to become the first projects.

A protocol on rendering the DRA assistance in education, health care, information, and communications, as well as intergovernmental documents, were also signed.

Implementation of the new Afghan-Soviet documents, S.A. Keshtmand stated, will be a major contribution to developing the economy and culture and to implementing the policy of national reconciliation. A most important trend in the activity of the PDPA and the DRA Government in present conditions is ensuring the country's steady social and economic growth and raising the Afghan people's living standards. A major role belongs to the Soviet Union in putting our economic programs into effect. With economic and technical aid from the USSR, enterprises are to be built in the current DRA 5-year plan in practically all sectors of the national economy. The documents signed today, the chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers stressed, are a further manifestation of the international solidarity, selflessness, and fraternal assistance of Afghanistan's great neighbor, the Soviet Union.

A distinctive feature of the current stage of our friendship, the chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers said, is an innovative approach to the further development of bilateral relations. A firm basis for this has been laid by the accords on matters of principle worked out in the talks and conversations between Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, and M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in Moscow December 1986.

The assistance given to Democratic Afghanistan K.F. Katushev noted in his answer, aimed at developing the DRA's vitally important spheres: education, cadre training, health care, information, and communications.

The agreement to set up enterprises with the participation of the Afghan national capital opens a new trend in Soviet-Afghan cooperation. In signing it both sides proceeded from the fact that involving national private capital in the manufacturing sphere should actively facilitate the economy's stabilization, guaranteeing goods for the domestic market, and expanding the DRA's export base. The chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations expressed confidence that implementing the documents signed would be a weighty contribution to strengthening Soviet-Afghan economic cooperation and the friendly and good-neighborly relations between our countries and peoples.

'Entrepreneurs' Meet in Kabul

LD190922 Moscow TASS in English 0834 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] Kabul April 19 TASS -- The first all-Afghan conference of private entrepreneurs has opened in the Afghan capital today. In the course of two days, more than 320 delegates from all provinces will discuss the national economy problems of the DRA and the role which the private sector is called upon to play in it. Najib, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee, addressed the opening session of the conference with a speech devoted to the current stage in the development of the Afghan society. Attending the conference are foreign delegations, including the Soviet delegation led by Konstantin Katushev, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, and representatives of the Afghan business circles resident abroad.

PAKISTANI AIRCRAFT DOWNS AFGHAN TRAINING PLANE

LD172232 Moscow TASS in English 1450 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] Kabul April 17 TASS -- The Pakistani military, incited by the United States Administration, have perpetrated a new flagrant provocation against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

It has become known from competent sources that on April 15 Pakistani fighter planes shot down with air-to-air missiles an Afghan fighter that was on a training patrol flight along the border in the area of Khowst District. The plane was downed over Afghan territory and fell on Afghan territory. The pilot ejected and was taken to his unit.

On the same day Iranian border posts opened fire at an AN-26 civilian plane of the Bakhtar Air Line as it was taking off from the airport of Zaranj. Luckily the plane was not hit.

These acts of provocation show that certain forces are trying in every way to impede a peaceful settlement of the situation around Afghanistan and disrupt the process of national reconciliation.

PRAVDA CITES DRA ALLEGATIONS ON KHOWST INCIDENT

PM151230 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Apr 87 First Edition p 5

[Own correspondent V. Okulov article: "No Justifications"]

[Text] Kabul -- Memorial services were held in Kabul's mosques for the crew members and passengers of the DRA AN-26 military transport aircraft who died when it was shot down by Pakistani Air Force F-16 fighters on 30 March. The family of Mir Sahib, who was on board the AN-26 with two children, gathered for a funeral in Khowst City.

The previous day, Colonel Wali Shah, accompanying his wife Hanifa, who had lost her elder brother, to a funeral ceremony in Khowst, was very agitated: Trips by transport aircraft into regions close to the Pakistani border are becoming increasingly dangerous. In February of this year tragedy befell the 36 passengers and crew of an AN-26 transport plane which was shot down by the dushmans near Khowst with an American Stinger missile. And now, there are more casualties.

"For Mir Sahib's family," Wali Shah explains, "his death was the second terrible loss. Two years ago Mir Sahib's father, the peasant Naim, died at the bandits' hands. Mir Sahib, my wife's eldest brother, took his father's place as head of the family at the age of 26, taking with him his 14-year-old son (Khayyat). Mir Sahib brought his sick daughter, 5-year-old (Kahilya) to Kabul. They were on their way home. And now we are weeping for all three, and cursing their murderers...

Afghanistan's air routes are often the only way of traveling in the country. Counterrevolutionary gangs, trying to thwart the process of national reconciliation, are concentrating their attacks on land communications -- shelling and destroying roads. Military transport aircraft, assisting the civil airline BAKHTAR, have assumed the main burden of passenger travel in the country. People flying in planes bearing its identification marks include pilgrims going to holy places, refugees returning from abroad, engineers going to construction sites, doctors, and other specialists -- that is common knowledge. That makes it all the more barbarously cynical to attack unarmed transport planes no matter what the Pakistani authorities may say to justify themselves.

The competent Afghan bodies are continuing to investigate the circumstances of the loss of the AN-26. At the same time people in Kabul note that the possible purposes of the unprovoked attack, which increases tension in the region, become clearer if it is considered that Pakistan has declared its intention of reorganizing its air defense system in the border regions. Talks are in progress with the United States on purchasing a consignment of AWACS radar detection planes. It is not impossible that U.S. crews could be used on these planes until Pakistani airmen have undergone training. The cost of the new system, according to preliminary estimates, will be between $500 million and $ 1 billion.

To justify this vast outlay while pursuing goals whose defensive nature is highly dubious, people in Kabul now emphasize, the Pakistani military is trying to make use of this instance of the downed Afghan plane, as well as fabrications concerning supposed bombings of Pakistani territory in the (Ter-mengal) region by Afghan aircraft.

But the intentions of the organizers of the provocation near the Afghan-Pakistani border are too obvious for this babble of justifications to stifle the lamentations and curses addressed to them in the mosques of Kabul and Khowst.

USSR, CSSR REACTION TO GORBACHEV CSSR VISIT

Moscow Radio on Trip

LD160821 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1730 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Program entitled: "In the Name of a Common Goal," presented by Nikolay Agayants, with Academician Yevgeniy Primakov and political observer Nikolay Shishlin]

[Text] [Agayants] Hello, comrades. The main event of the last few days undoubtedly has been and remains the official friendly visit to the CSSR by the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, which, let me remind you, took place 9-11 April. They were a truly unforgettable 3 days, which have left an indelible impression on the hearts and minds of millions of Czechs of Slovaks, in the history of our states.

I think that three aspects should be singled out in this multifaceted and vivid event. Since we cannot embrace something without bounds, we'll dwell on those in more detail. What am I thinking of? First and foremost the emotional aspect, that is, the atmosphere of genuine fratenity, friendship, warmth, and cordiality in which the visit took place. Next, issues of the theory and practice of socialist construction, which occupied a significant place in the top-level Soviet-Czechoslovak talks and in Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's speech at a Czechoslovak-Soviet friendship rally at Prague Palace of Culture. Finally, the international political aspect of the event -- the new peaceful initiatives put forward by Comrade Gorbachev in Prague, which have received a great response throughout the world.

But let's take things one by one. Replying to a question from the Czecholovak Communists' newspaper RUDE PRAVO on his impressions of his visit to Czechoslovakia, the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee said: The very best. The talks were fruitful and the visit was a success, above all from the point of view of its political significance -- the further strengthening of our unity, friendship, and cooperation -- and, of course, from the point of view of the accords reached in specific areas of economics, ideology, science, culture, and others fields. I also have to remark on the emotional atmosphere of the 3 days, emphasized Mikhail Sergeyevich. After all, the spiritual community between our peoples, the millions of hearts opened toward each other is not just an expression of feelings, liking, and friendly disposition, it is also, if you like, an expression of political convictions.

That is why during the days of the important Soviet guest's visit to the CSSR, in the festively dressed streets and squares of Prague and Bratislava, at the CKD compressor plant, and at the Mier agricultural cooperative, in short, whereever Mikhail Sergeyevich went, the time-honored slogan: Forever with the Soviet Union could be heard with a new force. One more thing. Comrade Gorbachev's visit to the CSSR was covered by more than 350 correspondents from news agencies, newspapers, magzines, radio, and television from more than 40 countries around the world. Without any exaggeration, the interest in it waas enormous. Although some people in the West by hook or by crook tried to poison the atmosphere, to cast doubts by spreading rumors and all sorts of speculation about the visit, its very first day showed that all these plans and designs burst like a soap bubble.

[Primakov] You know, although you have already laid down an outline for our discussion and said that we should begin with the emotional party, I prefer to start with a different aspect. To my mind the visit was of very great significance in respect that it illuminated one more aspect, the international aspect, of the restructuring that is taking place in our country.

When Mikhail Sergeyevich visited other countries, capitalist countries and India -- which is also capitalist but which is related to the developing world -- there the more prominent question was how was our restructuring affecting the international situation as a whole, international relations. Whereas here, in Czechoslovakia, at least this was the impression I received, the question was mainly of how our restrucutring could affect, and already is affecting the course of events in the socialist world.

What I have in mind is not some kind of dictation or instructions. Mikhail Sergeyevich himself empahsized while there that no party can consider itself to be closer to the truth than other parties and that in spite of the fact that we already have much experience, much accumulated experience in socialist construction, we have no right to dictate any conditions to anybody. What I do have in mind is the objective influence of what is taking place in our country on the processes taking place in the socialist world as a whole. Having started with this, I would like to go straight over to the emotions aroused during the visit to Czechoslovakia.

It was, if you like, totally remote from some kind of special preparation. I think that the reception that the people gave our leader shows the mood in Czechoslovakia with respect to the events that are taking place inside our country. That, it seems to me, was the main point regarding what you have called the emotional aspect.

[Shishlin] Nikolay Maksimovich, I can hardly add anything to your words regarding the emotional aspect of the visit. But from the substantive point of view of the working, official visit, I think that this visit has somehow very clearly marked the new quality in mutual relations between the socialist countries that has arisen. After all, if one is to speak absolutely sincerely, then of course when the popular democratic revolutions won, when the socialist order became firmly established in the East European countries, our socialist friends and partners haphazardly perceived the Soviet experience as some kind of standard. There was the one socialist country, with its weaknesses and errors, with its virtues and its successes, and this experience somehow was perceived in its entirety, without differentiation.

But years and decades have gone by and the socialist countries themselves have accumulated exceptionally valuable and rich experience by solving tasks not necessarily according to Soviet methods, not necessarily in accordance with Soviet prompts, but bu solving them their own way, getting hurt, getting bruises and lumps, but learning from their own political experience.

[Primakov] And proceeding from their own specific conditions of development. That's very important.

[Shishlin] That's right. Now we can see how, as this accumulation of quantitative changes in the socialist countries goes on, we find ourselves in a really qualitative new situation. At present the task indeed amounts to the fact that all these values accumulated in this enormous social laboratory simply have to be made use of by the Communists, equally by those of the Soviet Union and of Czechoslovakia, by the German and Bulgarian comrades and by the Communists of other socialist countries. Not to copy, of course, not to listen to this or that capital, but to know that voice, to know that experience, and to work on it creatively in the interests of accelerating the socioeconomic development of their countries.

I think that in that respect we are entitled to say that Mikhail Sergeyevich's visit to Czechoslovakia is one more very important link in the restructuring of the international socialist relations which has been taking place over the last 2 years.

We also have had quantitative elements of that in the past and there was always a striving to build these mutual relations on an equal basis, on the basis of noninterference in each other's internal affairs, on the basis of consideration of the principle of socialist foreign aid. But only the accumulation of experience, only the development has made it possible to reach this qualitatively new level of mutual relations.

[Agayants] Nikolay Vladimirovich, I would like to add the following. Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's frank and honest speaking created a colossal impression on everybody in Czechoslovakia and even beyond its borders. The Czechoslovak press wrote about it; it was reported by radio and by television; everyone whom I had an opportunity to meet and talk to during the days of the visit spoke about it. Moreover, virtually everybody emphasized the importance of the question raised by Comrade Gorbachev about the current revolutionary changes in our society, the question that is not just of theoretical significance but also of great political significance. Let's look, say, at the way in which the problem of the socialist countries' cooperation in utilizing the experience that you spoke of, accumulated by our friends, was presented in Gorbachev's speech. After all, we have to own up to the fact that until quite recently it was considered if not shameful then at least strange to say that we could learn something from somebody, to adopt something. Isn't that so?

[Shishlin] Well, I don't quite agree with you here, because the words were always uttered, and there always was a desire to learn about each other, although we were not free of some completely dogmatic notions. I am thinking here not so much of the party leadership but of individual representatives of our party who thought that we ultimately possessed the truth and that in every discussion, be it on theoretical or practical issues, the last word belonged to us, that the (?theoretical) basis and directions for mutual relations between the socialist countries did indeed emanate from those ideas about harmonious international relations found in Marx, Engels, and Lenin.

[Primakov] and on the socialist countries' community of interests.

[Shishlin] and that's of no little importance.

[Primakov] That's right.

[Shishlin] That's why I think that now, when we speak of today, when we speak of tomorrow, we should by no means see yesterday as a thing of the past. After all, it is a fact that the socialist countries stood their ground in the first postwar decade largely because of the existence of the socialist community, the existence of the world socialist system. Let's be frank. If there was no USSR, our socialist friends would have been smashed. Many of the bitter trials they have had to go through were related not only to some internal errors and miscalculations but to tremendous pressure from the capitalist, imperialist world, the tremendous pressure of the old, which was hindering the establishment of the new socialist order. That is why we must concentrate on today and tomorrow.

This new day brings a new quality, but I think we should be talking about this new quality without going into raptures, without going over the top, because the new quality is already present and, to some extent, still a goal of ours, even a dream, if you like, because there is still much work to be done, for example in economic relations. Yevgeniy Maksimovich knows about this better than I do.

Look at how much we talk about direct contacts, how much we talk about the international socialist division of labor, about the international socialist integration, when in fact this business has been developing only sluggishly.

[Primakov] By the way, in Czechoslovakia I saw a television interview with workers after Mikhail Sergeyevich's visit to plant.

[Agayants] Was that the CKD compressor plant?

[Primakov] That's it. The most interesting thing was that all of them said that the visit, all in all, would create a certain stimulus in the development of these direct contacts. They expressed dissatisfaction with the state of affairs in this field, thus confirming what you have just said, Nikolay Vladimirovich.

[Shishlin] Indeed, we here in Moscow also noted that in the direct conversations with Czechoslovak working people -- of which Mikhail Sergeyevich had quite a few -- our Czechoslovak friends very often focused attention precisely on the fact that words should be followed unfailingly by actions. Actions are needed. Emphasis was made in that same key, which, as a matter of fact, can be heard in our internal political life. In Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's speech the idea was expressed that it is necessary to ennoble the international socialist division of labor. What is your interpretation of this?

[Primakov] Of ennobling this?

[Shishlin] That's right.

[Primakov] Well, I think that first, the international socialist division of labor has to be transferred to a permanent basis, once (?and for all), so that there is no dashing back and forth. At the same time, I think that this international division should be made maximally dynamic, so that it is sufficiently flexible and receptive to scientific and technical progress. At the same time it should apply to the most forward-looking fields -- I'd even say pioneering directions -- which are of significance for the development of every socialist country's economy. Morever, for the time being, we consider that the integration processes can be based -- at least, that's the way things have been -- on mutual deliveries, through foreign trade channels. At most one side sent the other component parts. But that's not enough; that's no real integration. Real integration is when something is jointly created, and this joint creation is possible through direct contacts, and so forth.

[Agayants] One of the most important aspects of Mikhail Sergeyevich's visit to the CSSR was, of course, the formulation of new issues in the field of international relations, more specifically on disarmament problems. After all, a great many new elements were presented in Comrade Gorbachev's speech in Prague.

[Primakov] I will try to list these elements concisely, so to speak. First, Mikhail Sergeyevich said that we were ready to hold parallel negotiations on operational and tactical missiles. The significance of this is undoubtedly enormous, because as soon as the USSR announced that it was ready to go for the zero option in medium-range missiles in Europe, with sharp reductions in our missiles in Asia and of the U.S. ones on U.S. territory -- I am talking about medium-range missiles -- in the West they immediately raised objections, although the option was theirs. But what kind of objections were raised?

That this should be coupled to operational and tactical missiles, in which, they say, the USSR has an advantage, that there should be linkage [preceeding word in English], as they say, that the two issues should be linked. It was obvious that they already were knocking at an open door, because in proposing to sharply reduce and to destroy medium-range missiles in Europe, Mikhail Sergeyevich already had spoken of our readiness to withdraw increased-range operational and tactical missiles from the territories of the CSSR and the GDR, and to start immediate negotiations on remaining operational and tactical missiles.

[Agayants] Indeed, Yevgeniy Maksimovich, without doubt that is a very important detail. After all, when the USSR speaks about negotiations on operational and tactical missiles it means the following absolutely clearly defined position -- the elimination of these missiles.

[Primakov] That's right, reduction and elimination. In practice we have proposed a zero level in operational and tactical missiles, toward which we are ready to move in stages, taking into consideration the West's position. In his speech, Mikhail Sergeyevich emphasized that where the sides have advantages, let's lower the level of the advantages and not increase the other side's level. I think that this, in principle, is a new philosophy, and I think that it totally disarms those who would like to stimulate the arms race under the pretext of solving the question. That's one element.

The next element in Mikhail Sergeyevich's speech: They in the West have said in effect that not one question can be solved without solving the question of conventional weapons. Well, on this account every possible kind of speculation is in progress. Incidentally, recently, in its regular publication, the London Institute of Strategic Studies quite plainly wrote about the parity existing between the Warsaw Pact and NATO in conventional weapons and conventional armed forces. Even so, speculation continues about us not being ready to resolve the issue.

[Agayants] Summing up the results of the Soviet-Czechozlovak top-level negotiations, Gustav Husak, general secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee stated: I considered the new peace-loving initiatives put forward by Comrade Gorbachev at the rally in Prague to be very important. In his new comprehensive proposal, Husak emphasized, Comrade Gorbachev gave a clear, constructive, and unambiguous answer. Nothing should block the path to further negotiations now, especially since the proposals met a positive response in Western countries.

[Primakov] He also said that he had swept off the table all those arguments against, so to speak, that were being put forward in the West.

[Agayants] That's right.

[Primakov] That's quite right.

[Shishlin] But we should warn our listeners that this does not mean that some kind of new reservations will not arise...

[Primakov, interrupting] Unfortunately.

[Shishlin] ...in the West. That's right, unfortunately.

[Primakov] You know, we have paused on a kind of gloomy note, in a sense. Nevertheless, they will continue putting them forward -- that is their policy. They will continue to do so.

But with every statement, with every new initiative we are nearing the final solution. Why? Because, it seems to me, that now we can firmly say, even without any propaganda coating, without attempting to exaggerate something that's positive for us, that public opinion in the West is changing in our favor.

[Agayants] Without doubt.

[Primakov] This is an extremely important factor. After all, at one time we used to say that public opinion does not have such a great position or play such an important part in the adoption of political decisions in the West. I agree with you, Nikolay Vladimirovich; far be it from me to criticize everything that has taken place in the past. But I just want to say that that kind of approach did not leave room for public opinion, which indeed does play an important part; otherwise they would not manipulate it. After all, in the West those who are in power manipulate it, and they do it persistently, spending a great deal of money on it. If it did not play any part, they would not manipulate it. It plays a part and now it is turning in our direction. That is an enormous gain. With every such trip, every speech, we gain in public opinion.

[Agayants] Moreover, I'd like to say, Yevgeniy Maksimovich, that altogether in light of these political events we have witnessed during the last few weeks, especially in connection with Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev's visit to the CSSR, I think that, all in all, a certain perspective is taking shape and that a very important, fundamental idea is growing -- namely, that from Reykjavik there is no way back; from Reykjavik there is only one way: forward. I think that after Reykjavik we have enriched our position significantly, developed it significantly. Were it a creation of the Soviet Union alone, things wouldn't have been all that good. But the fact that the position of our socialist friends has been enriched, the fact that, as you put it, a noticeable turnabout is taking place in the public frame of mind. All this, of course, creates a potential for peace, a potential for good will, which also promises inspiring results -- results on the plane of a radical improvement in the European and international situation. I think that on this cheerful note we can conclude our meeting today.

We have reached the end of our program. Thank you, Comrades, for your attention. All the best.

[Agayants] Everyone knows that the Warsaw Pact put forward in Budapest an appropriate proposal for sharp reductions in conventional weapons. There was no appropriate answer. Now we are saying: All right, we also are deflecting this argument and we are deflecting it forcefully. We are ready to start large-scale negotiations in Vienna at the foreign ministerial level on reducing conventional weapons and to conduct such negotiations openly and with enhanced confidence measures to eliminate the possibility of a sudden attack by one side against the other.

[Primakov] Finally the third element. There was all this speculation in the West about the Soviet Union allegedly wanting either all or nothing in offensive strategic missiles. Even some of our friends were saying: You know, the world is not yet secure and is not yet ready to fully eliminate nuclear weapons. Now Mikhail Sergeyevich has said absolutely clearly: We are still in favor of destroying all nuclear assets in the course of 10 years.

But, at the same time, we are ready to eliminate over a 5-year period 50 percent of nuclear, offensive, and strategic assets on both sides, on the condition that the sides will not abandon the ABM Treaty on antimissile defense.

These were new elements and, incidentally, the first reactions, from Reagan and from others, could not have been other than positive. I am of course convinced that now there probably will be all sorts of backtracking, all sorts of things will be done. But the first reaction could not have been other than positive because now public opinion is on our side.

[Shishlin] There also is an interesting detail in this reaction. It is of course mixed and variegated, but unexpectedly figures on the U.S. political stage, such as U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger and his assistant, Richard Perle, joined the ranks of optimists in respect to prospects for negotiations on medium-range missiles. That, of course, is something never seen before...

[Primakov, interrupting] makes you perk up your ears. [laughter]

[Shishlin] ...that's right... in the political practice of the last few years.

But what you have been saying is very interesting, very important. Indeed, in the arguments that we encounter from the U.S. Administration there is an ever-present motif, which could be described as all or nothing. In its essential parameters, in its strategic directions, the U.S. policy does not change, that is, by keeping this SDI element, the Strategic Defense Initiative, they expect to force their way through to military superiority, to place the Soviet Union in, well, let's say, in an uncomfortable position, in a vulnerable position, and in essence to aim into the future -- to involve us in an arms race in such a refined field of competition as arms in space with all the consequences resulting from this for peaceful creative plans, for the stability of the world situation, and so on.

So, I think that everything that we have already said contains within it one more thing, a kind of general, wide, deep background to all those ideas expressed by Mikhail Sergeyevich. To my mind, we are taking this discussion, after the Moscow forum of peace-loving forces, which was a very noticeable event, and after the Prague speech, we are, all in all, albeit step by step, taking the discussion on halting the arms race, on reducing the arms race, from the closed confines of diplomats' negotiations and representatives of other departments to a judgment by the world public.

[Primakov] You know, they are very much afraid of it. I had to take part in several news conferences in Prague. A journalist, an American journalist asked me: Why do you, the Soviet Union, announce this publicly? Would it not have been better to give Shultz, who is coming to Moscow, these proposals of yours in advance? I told him that the 2 or 3 days that separated the speech from Shultz were quite sufficient for Shultz to think through whether or not he should enter talks on operational and tactical missiles. I added that I probably thought better of Shultz than did the American journalist who was asking the question, because I considered that he would have sufficient data and sufficient experience to resolve that issue in a couple of days.

Gorbachev Reply to RUDE PRAVO

PM130925 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Apr 87 Second Edition p 1

["M.S. Gorbachev's Reply to Question From RUDE PRAVO" -- date and place unspecified]

[Text] Question: What are your impressions of your stay in Czechoslovakia?

Answer: In short, the very best of impressions. The Czechoslovak leaders and I were of the same opinion that the talks were fruitful and the visit successful. It was successful primarily from the standpoint of its political importance -- the further strengthening of our unity, friendship, and cooperation, and, of course, from the standpoint of the accords reached in specific areas -- the economy, ideology, science, culture, and other spheres. We are fully resolved to bring existing reserves into play and to develop new and more progressive forms of integration ties.

There are new horizons ahead, we are continuing our progress, and every step of the way must lead more quickly to our common goal.

I would like to stress that what I have just said also wholly applies to the work to deepen collaboration among the socialist states which the CPSU consistently implements, seeing it as a priority direction of its international activity.

I cannot fail to mention the emotional atmosphere of those 3 days. After all, the spiritual communality of our peoples and the millions of hearts open to each other are not only an area of feelings, sympathies, and friendly inclinations; they are, if you like, the expression of political convictions. I am sincerely grateful to our Czechoslovak friends for the numerous meetings -- including those I had on the streets of Prague and Bratislava, at the CKD plant, and at the Mier agricultural cooperative. These were really remarkable meetings. They confirmed yet again that the unity of our parties, our socialist ideals, and our friendship have become a material force and an integral element in our peoples' self-awareness.

I and Soviet missions in the CSSR have received many letters and telegrams from Czechoslovak citizens and organizations with regard to the visit. They are signs of attention and friendship toward our party and country, signs that show human emotion, are profound, and come from the heart. Their writers unanimously express support for the CPSU's course of restructuring and renewal and note the international importance of what we are doing.

I would like to convey through your newspaper my sincere gratitude to everyone whose hand I was unable to shake personally or whose greetings and letters I was unable to answer. I want you to be well aware that the Soviet Union will continue to do everything to further deepen our genuinely fraternal relations and to strengthen peace and the peoples' security.

I wish socialist Czechoslovakia's Communists and working people successes in implementing the decisions of the 17th CPCZ Congress. May your socialist motherland flourish and may you enjoy great happiness and personal prosperity.

M. Gorbachev

Gorbachevs on Prague Visit

LD111418 [Editorial Report] Prague Domestic Service in Czech at 1210 GMT on 11 April, during its "Studio Seven" broadcast, carries some 40 minutes of reportage on CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to Prague and Bratislava. The first 7-minute segment of the reportage deals with Gorbachev's visit to Peace Square in Bratislava. The second 17-minute segment features a talk by a Czechoslovak sculptor on the importance of Gorbachev's peace initiatives, comments by a participant in the 10 April meeting of the friendship society, and remarks by a member of the national theater troupe who performed "The Bartered Bride" for the Gorbachevs on the evening of 10 April.

Following an airing of the overture to "The Bartered Bride," the announcer says that Mikhail and Raisa Gorbachev gave an interview to Czechoslovak Television at Prague Airport before their departure for Bratislava. Mikhail Gorbachev is heard speaking in Russian with superimposed Czech translation. He says: "I am full of big feelings and big impressions. I already have spoken about it. I found Prague and the people of Prague in a good mood. I can see that they have grand, interesting plans for the future. They are prepared to do a lot and to work harder. Also, thank you for friendship. We hold it in high esteem. Not just the people of Prague, but all inhabitants of Czechoslovakia can be certain tat the Soviet Union will always stand by their side, under any conditions, whether the sky is clear or cloudy, whether the wind blows, whether the times are hard. We shall always be together. I wish the Prague people -- because I am still staying in Czechoslovakia -- a lot of success. I wish to say once again that I like Prague very much. This stay, though short, has left great and new impressions.

Raisa Gorbacheva is then heard speaking in Russian with superimposed Slovak translation. She says: "This is my second visit to Prague. Our first visit took place after Geneva in 1985. Then we arrived very tired and I did not get into Prague's streets before evening. It was raining. I recall those lyrical peaceful buildings and the people of Prague hurrying home after work. At that time Prague had a calming effect on me, and it gave me the certainty that I was among friends. This time my impressions are much more varied and stronger, especially my meeting with the people of Prague. But that feeling - that feeling remains the same."

Moscow TV on Good Relations

LD111753 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1155 GMT 11 Apr 87

[From the "Community" program, presented by Yuriy Ulyanov in the studio]

[Text] Hello, comrades. These days fraternal Czechoslovakia is offering heartfelt greetings to Soviet guests. [video shows Gorbachev and Husak on the streets, cheering crowds, slogans] "Long live the Soviet Union!" "Long live Czechoslovak-Soviet friendship!" "Long live the CPSU!" recite the working people of Prague. This is how the visit of Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev to the USSR started. Prague had been expecting this visit and millions of Czechs and Slovaks had been eagerly looking forward to it. There are many things connecting our countries. The emotional reception given to Soviet soldiers and liberators on Czechoslovak soil in May 1945 will never fade in the memory of the people. We remember, too, the difficult days of the summer of 1968 when external counterrevolutionary forces in alliance with internal counterrevolution were whipping up a wave of anti-Sovietism and tried to knock Czechoslovakia out of the ranks of the socialist community.

The years that have passed have confirmed the wisdom of the decisions adopted then by Czechoslovak communist-internationalists, who chose the socialist path of development for their country one and for all. [video shows Ulyanov in studio again]

Not a single serious observer can question today the strength of Soviet-Czechoslovak friendship. Yet its enemies do not want to calm down. They have started looking for nonexistent disagreements between our countries. This could be seen in the weeks preceding Comrade Gorbachev's visit to Czechoslovakia. As soon as it was announced, all kinds of speculation started brewing, alleging that the Czechoslovak leadership does not approve of the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee January 1987 Plenum, that the course toward restructuring in our country is unacceptable for the CSSR, that relations between the leaders of our parties have become strained, and so on. This campaign, in which the BBC has been particularly prominent, did not subside, even after Comrade Husak spoke at the CPCZ Central Committee plenum last March and stated, I quote: Restructuring is the only prospect for resolving the fundamental problems of the socioeconomic development of the country. Enemy propaganda is trying to spread fabrications about disagreements allegedly existing between the CPCZ and the CPSU. This has been disproved, however, by the unanimous stand of the CPCZ Central Committee in asserting that the ideas and thoughts of the CPSU Central Committee January Plenum have been helping us to accelerate our economic, political, ideological and social progress, and that we will use them at all levels of our practical work. [video shows the meeting in Prague, Gorbachev on the rostrum, Gorbachev and Husak in conversation]

The complete unity of the views of the CPSU and CPCZ in their evaluation of international events and in their attitude to tackling internal problems was confirmed at the meeting of Czechoslovak-Soviet friendship in Prague. Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev noted in his speech that it is both possible and necessary to build the whole system of political relations between socialist countries strictly on the basis of equal rights and reciprocal responsibility. Nobody has the right to claim a unique position in the socialist world. With regard to economic cooperation between fraternal countries, the forms and methods of cooperation that have taken shape in the past have ceased to correspond to today's possibilities and needs. The period of the formation of socialism as a world system is over, and a new stage has begun which requires bringing the entire system of cooperation between our countries up to a qualitatively new level. The further development of Soviet-Czechoslovak contacts in this aspect was given much attention at the talks between the leaders of our fraternal parties. In particular, it was agreed to deepen coordination between state bodies and public organizations, and to step up the pace of developing specialization and production cooperation. Indeed, there is still a great and unused potential in this matter.

'Unity,' 'Solidarity' With CSSR

LD110938 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0625 GMT 11 Apr 87

[From the "In Countries of Socialism" program, presented by Vyacheslav Lavrentyev, with special correspondent Nikolay Agayants in Prague]

[Text] Today's central event in the life of the countries of our community is indisputably the official friendly visit to the CSSR by Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. The Soviet-Czechoslovak summit talks, and the new peace initiatives by the USSR, set forth by Comrade Gorbachev in his address at the Czechoslovak-Soviet friendship meeting in the Prague Palace of Culture, are attracting enormous interest throughout the world. Over to Nikolay Agayants, our special correspondent in Prague:

Unity, solidarity, mutual cooperation between the countries of socialism, are, as is known, a potent factor in their socioeconomic progress and ever-increasing influence on the course of world events. The fraternal communist and workers' parties are manifesting ceaseless concern for strengthening the links between the peoples of the countries of the socialist community, and thus regular links and contacts between leaders of the fraternal states are of exceptionally great importance.

The visit by Comrade Gorbachev to the CSSR provides bright, new, and convincing evidence of this. This visit ends tomorrow, but even today there is full justification for speaking of it as a new and very important landmark in the history of our fraternal countries, in the history of fruitful Czechoslovak cooperation.

During the visit, the key directions of the development of friendly links between the CSSR and the USSR are being discussed, as well as topical questions concerning the international situation. The discussions have shown complete identity of the fundamental positions of the CPCZ and the CPSU, of the CSSR and the USSR, and their unshakable ideological and political unity. The meetings on Czechoslovak soil -- everywhere Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev appeared -- have turned into unforgettable demonstrations of the friendship and cohesion of our peoples. The warm and most cordial welcome accorded here to the high-ranking Soviet visitor reflects the strength of this cohesion and friendship.

During the visit by the CPSU Central Committee general secretary to the CSSR, the resolve of the socialist states to spare no effort to curb the giddying arms race, to rid mankind of the threat of nuclear war, and to strengthen peace and security on our planet Earth has sounded with renewed force in Prague.

'International Diary' Visit

LD1111932 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1645 GMT 11 Apr 87

[From the "International Diary" program, presented by Vladimir Pasko, with special correspondent Nikolay Agayants in Prague]

[Text] The 3-day visit of Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev to Czechoslovakia will be seen as an important milestone in the history of the Soviet Union and the CSSR. Special correspondent Nikolay Agayants reports from Prague:

[Begin Agayants recording] The warmth and cordiality which met Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev in Prague and Bratislava and wherever he appeared were an expression of the fraternal feelings of millions of Czechs and Slovaks for the Soviet people and for Lenin's Land of the Soviets. These feelings have deep roots. The bases for our friendship were laid in the struggle for the ideals of Great October. This friendship has been consolidated by blood spilled together in bitter battles for the liberation of Czechoslovakia from the fascist aggressors. It has been most widely developed in the course of the postwar decades. Today, again, these relations have been given a new and powerful boost. The talks have confirmed the full unity of outlook on contemporary problems of socialist construction and the further development of multilateral relations between our countries. Great attention was paid at the meetings between Comrades Gorbachev and Husak to the results and prospects of the joint struggle for disarmament and the strengthening of international security.

As was confirmed again by Comrade Gorbachev's speech at the Czechoslovak-Soviet friendship meeting, our country consistently is demonstrating new thinking and new approaches in the foreign policy arena. The new peaceful initiatives put forward in Prague by the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee have been received with warm approval by the Czechoslovak public. As an oath of allegiance to our common cause, the slogan: With the Soviet Union until time eternal -- which has been tried and tested by life -- is resounding here with renewed force. [end recording]

USSR, CSSR Envoys on Visit

LD141019 Hamburg DPA in German 0938 GMT 14 Apr 87

[Text] Bonn (DPA) -- The ambassadors of the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia, in clear unity, emphasized in Bonn on Tuesday the good relations between their two countries. The Prague ambassador, Dusan Spacil, and his Soviet colleague, Yuliy Kvitsinskiy spoke in identical terms about the positive and constructive course of the visit by the Soviet general secretary, Mikhail Gorbachev, to the CSSR, and said that rumors about problems and differences of opinion between the two states' leaderships belong to the realm of speculation.

Kvitsinskiy and Spacil spoke at the Czechoslovak Embassy at a joint news conference, such as has not been seen as far as political ambassadors [as received] in Bonn can recall. The talks with Gorbachev had been fruitful, Kvitsinskiy said, and Spacil spoke of a "fantastic visit." According to Prague diplomats, alleged remarks by Gorbachev of a "political illness" which had led to the premature return to Moscow are wrong. The CPSU general secretary merely quoted speculations in the West and added clearly: "Actually, I have had an ordinary cold."

The two ambassadors emphasized once again the importance of Gorbachev's new disarmament proposals and underlined their countries' sincere wish for a reduction in the arms arsenals. Kvitsinskiy advised the West not to look for "cloven hooves" while analyzing the Gorbachev speech, but to help bring about conscientiously and responsibly specific agreements. The Soviet Union is interested in a fundamentally new climate of understanding between East and West, and an atmosphere of good-neighborliness and trust.

The Soviet ambassador also referred to other cross-bloc problems, such as terrorism, crime, drug addiction, and AIDS, which can be tackled only jointly. It is noticeable that Kvitsinskiy emphasized Europe's responsibility and called for "efforts by all the European countries," but made no mention of the United States. According to Spacil, Prague supports Gorbachev's new course unconditionally. We agree with Moscow as far as the further construction of socialism is concerned. The independence of the socialist states in determining this path was not a contentious issue in Prague, Spacil said.

PRAVDA on CSSR Reaction

PM150843 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Apr 87 Second Edition p 4

[Own correspondent S. Vtorushin dispatch under general heading: "For a Happy Future; International Public on New Soviet Peace Initiatives"]

[Text] Prague, 13 Apr -- Czechslovakia is under the impression of M.S. Gorbachev's visit. [paragraph continues]

Everyone you meet these days says: The CPSU's innovatory course and the revolutionary restructuring under way in the USSR instill optimism and the firm belief that socialism will scale new heights. This is gladdening and gives hope for the normalization of the international situation and the possibility of a nuclear-free world.

Today RUDE PRAVO and other Czechoslovak newspapers published an interview with G. Husak, general secretary of the CPCZ Central Committee and president of the CSSR, devoted to the results of M.S. Gorbachev's visit.

I think that not only I myself but also all our citizens are very satisfied with the results of the visit, the Czechoslovak leader said. It is important that our mutual relations were assessed by both sides as being very good. We paid special attention to the development of economic and scientific-technical cooperation and the use of new forms of this cooperation, such as the development of direct links between enterprises and the creation of joint organizations and the intensification of specialization and sharing, which helps both countries.

I consider the new peace-loving proposals put forward by the CPSU Central Committee general secretary at the meeting in Prague to be very important. As is well known, the Soviet Union has come out with numerous peace-loving proposals concerning nuclear and other armaments. But the Western countries are constantly putting forward various objections, either regarding verification or the fact that questions of short-range nuclear missiles, conventional armaments, and so forth have not been resolved yet. In this comprehensive new proposal, M.S. Gorbachev gave a clear, constructive, and unequivocal answer. Now nothing should stand in the way of further talks. All the more so since these proposals have met with a positive response in Western countries.

The eminent Soviet guest's visit, the press here notes, developed into a graphic manifestation of Czechoslovak-Soviet friendship. It reflected the high level of all-around cooperation between the two fraternal countries and our parties' ideological unity.

The summit meeting in the CSSR reaffirmed the unity of views of the two parties' leaders on all questions of domestic and foreign policy. It undoubtedly will be a powerful accelerating factor in the development of bilateral relations. This applies not only to interstate and interparty relations, ties of friendship will strengthen between districts, regions, and individual organizations. Closer contacts between our countries' labor collectives, organizations, and citizens are also important.

Economic cooperation is of special importance. Czechoslovakia is one of the USSR's biggest trading partners. The Soviet Union supplies the CSSR with fuel, raw material, and other materials, and a considerable quantity of machinery. On the other hand, the USSR accounts for approximately 45 percent of Czechoslovak exports.

But the existing system of economic mutual relations no longer accords in every respect with the demands of intensification. It was noted at the meeting that the requirements of the acceleration of socioeconomic development on the basis of economic integration make it necessary to build up the initiative and activeness of ministries, departments, enterprises, and associations in implementing long-term economic and scientific-technical cooperation between the USSR and the CSSR and the CEMA countries' Comprehensive Program of Scientific and Technical Development up to the Year 2000.

"Our plant is a well-known enterprise," Hero of Socialist Labor Antonin Mlady, team leader at the Prague CKD Compressors plant, said. "We have long been conducting talks on building up direct ties with our Kazan colleagues. Now I am sure a contract will be signed very soon."

The talks in Prague and Bratislava showed that both parties consider the main task of their international policy to be the consolidation of the peoples' security and the conservation of peace on our planet.

In this regard, the Czechoslovak newspapers highlight in particular the package of proposals made by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, for the consolidation of Europe's security and trust between the continent's states. They note the Soviet Union's full support for the appeal of the GDR and CSSR Governments to the FRG Government proposing the creation of a nuclear-free corridor in central Europe and the USSR's readinesss to withdraw all Soviet nuclear weapons from the corridor.

The CPSU Central Committee general secretary's visit to Czechoslovakia has become a major event of international life.

CPCZ Presidium Report

LD150958 Moscow TASS in English 0832 GMT 15 Apr 87

[Text] Prague April 15 TASS -- The Presidium of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia [CPC] has considered the course and results of Mikhail Gorbachev's official friendly visit to Czecholslovakia on April 9-11, 1987.

The Presidium of the CPC Central Committee was convinced, said a report published in this connection, that the talks held during the visit were an important landmark in developing ties between our parties and states, in strengthening and broadening fraternal allied relations.

New broad vistas were opened up for deeper Czechoslovak-Soviet cooperation in all fields, special attention was drawn to economic, scientific and technological cooperation, to the vigorous introduction of such progressive forms of cooperation as specialization and co-production, establishment of direct ties between enterprises and joint organizations.

"We believe that the visit will promote stronger international unity, cooperation and interaction of the entire socialist community," the report said. "It gave a fresh impetus to handling pressing tasks of developing socialism."

"Working meetings and conversations with citizens held during the visit reaffirmed our party's and people's broad support for the CPSU's policy and the profound sympathy that we feel towards the innovating course of revolutionary change carried out in the Soviet Union at the communist party's initiative."

The Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and all Czechoslovak people highly assessed the CPSU's foreign policy directed at improving the international situation, abolishing nuclear and other types of weapons of mass annihilation and ensuring security in Europe and all over the world, and fully backed this policy, the report said.

They welcomed Gorbachev's new major proposals put forward in Prague, proposals that refuted the West's objections and paved the way for reaching agreements leading to a nuclear-free Europe.

These and other initiatives confirmed the USSR's constructive and responsible attitude to establishing an atmosphere of mutual confidence and a firm foundation for our common "European home," the Presidium of the CPC Central Committee said.

Slovak CP Hails Visit

PM160855 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 15 Apr 87 First Edition p 5

[TASS report under general heading: "Durable, Inviolable Alliance"]

[Text] Bratislava, 14 Apr -- The visit by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, to Czechoslovakia generated enormous interest and was ardently welcomed by the republic's working people and youth. This was emphasized by the Slovak Communist Party Central Committee Presidium.

It was noted that M.S. Gorbachev's visit convincingly demonstrated the durability and inviolability of Czechoslovak-Soviet friendship.

GORBACHEV VISIT TO ROMANIA, SFRY IN MAY POSSIBLE

AU121319 Paris AFP in English 1250 GMT 12 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow, April 12 (AFP) -- Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev could make an official visit to Romania and Yugoslavia in May, Communist diplomatic sources said here Sunday.

Romania is the sole Warsaw Pact country Mr. Gorbachev has not visited since his accession to power two years ago. The Soviet foreign minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, visited there in October 1986.

Following a meeting last December with Milanko Renovica, president of the Yugoslavian Communist League, Mr. Gorbachev agreed to visit Yugoslavia this year. The Renovica-Gorbachev talks represented the first Soviet-Yugoslav summit in seven years.

More on Romania Visit

LD120927 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0126 GMT 12 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Bucharest, 12 Apr (TANJUG) -- Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, will pay an official visit to Romania at the end of May this year. This has been learned from well-informed diplomatic circles in Bucharest. The same sources note that the visit planned earlier for the beginning of May has been postponed until later because of President Ceausescu's trip to Prague and because Grobachev will be occupied with the May celebrations in the USSR. [passage omitted]

VORONTSOV HOLDS 'FRIENDLY CONVERSATION' IN LIBYA

PM140915 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Apr 87 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Stronger Ties"]

[Text] Tripoli, 10 Apr -- Yu.M. Vorontsov, USSR first deputy foreign minister, who is here as special representative of the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, had a meeting 9 April with J.A. Talbi, secretary of the Libyan People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison. During a friendly conversation the sides discussed issues relating to the further development of bilateral cooperation between the USSR and Libya and international problems of mutual interest.

DELEGATION IN LIBYA FOR U.S. RAID ANNIVERSARY

LD131844 Moscow TASS in English 1737 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Text] Tripoli April 13 TASS -- A Soviet [words indistinct] delegation arrived in the capital of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. It is to take part in events timed for the 1st anniversary of the U.S. aggression against that Arab country.

The delegation is led by Aleksandr Sukharev, minister of justice of the Russian Federation (the biggest of the 15 constituent republics making up the U.S.S.R.), a member of the Soviet Committee for Afro-Asian Solidarity.

In an interview to the Libyan news agency JANA the head of the Soviet delegation spoke about the solidarity of the Soviet people with the people of the Libyan Jamahiriyah in its efforts to resist aggressive plans of U.S. imperialism.

The Soviet envoy positively appraises relations of friendship and cooperation between the Soviet Union and Libya in diverse fields.

VORONTSOV IN ALGERIA, CONFERS WITH BENDJEDID

PM140927 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Apr 87 Morning Edition p 3

[TASS report: "Conversation Held"]

[Text] Yu.M. Vorontsov, USSR first deputy foreign minister, who has arrived in Algeria as a special envoy of the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, was received by C. Bendjedid, secretary general of the National Liberation Front Party and president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria.

During their conversation, which passed in a spirit of friendship and mutual understanding, there was a detailed exchange of views on international questions and also on regional conflicts which are being exploited by the imperialist forces with the aim of stifling the peoples' desire for freedom and progress. Existing problems in the Near East and North Africa were examined from this angle.

Expression was given to the conviction of the usefulness of the Soviet-Algerian political dialogue and to the intention to continue it in the spirit of the accords achieved during the visit of President C. Bedjedid of Algeria to Moscow and his talks with M.s. Gorbachev.

MILITARY DELEGATION ARRIVES IN ALGIERS

LD111707 Moscow TASS in English 1618 GMT 11 Apr 87

[Text] Algiers April 11 TASS -- A Soviet military delegation led by Marshal of Aviation A. Yefimov, commander-in-chief of the Air Force and a deputy defense minister of the USSR, arrived here on an official visit today.

It was invited by General A. Guenaiziya, commander of the Air Force of the Algerian People's Democratic Republic.

The delegation laid wreaths at the Heroes of the Algerian Revolution Memorial and visited the Revolution Museum.

PERES-SHEVARDNADZE MEETING EXPECTED IN 'WEEKS'

TA0906130 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Apr 87 pp 1, 8

[Unattributed report and report from Rome by Lisa Palmieri-Billig and news agencies]

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres is expected to meet with his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze within the next few weeks, a senior government official said in Jerusalem last night.

The purpose of Peres's talks in Rome this week with two Soviet officials was to pave the way for the anticipated Peres-Shevardnadze meeting, the senior official said.

The current Israeli-Soviet contacts focus on how to progress towards the convening of an international conference. A major stumbling block is the divergence of views on the status of the world's major powers at such a conference, the official said.

The Israeli position is that the U.S. representative should be the sole conference president, with the representatives of the four other members of the Security Council having the role of observers, the official said. The Soviet Union is demanding that all five Security Council members have equal status.

The official also disclosed that another difference that emerged in Peres's talks concerned the procedure whereby contacts would be established between Israel and the Arab delegations participating in the conference. Israel wants such contacts established separately through each of the five powers, whereas the Soviets insist that the five function as a single bloc.

Lisa Palmieri-Billig in Rome and news agencies add:

Peres had three long meetings yesterday with Aleksandr Zotov, the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee's foreign relations consultant, and Karen Brutents, deputy head of the Central Committee's International Department. [passage omitted]

Israeli observers in Rome agree that the Soviets have softened their position and that there has been a constructive shift away from general concepts towards a search for concrete solutions. [passage omitted]

CORRECTION TO BRUTENTS DENIES PERES INVITED

The following correction pertains to the article headlined: "Brutents Denies Peres Invited to Moscow", published on Page H1 in the 13 April Soviet Union DAILY REPORT:

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres yesterday held another talk, the second within 24 hours, with two senior Soviet representatives. At the end of the talks Peres declared that there is a stronger basis now for his assessment that the Soviets are indeed interested in improving relations with Israel. "The talks will be followed up," Peres said.

However, the impression received after 2 hours of deliberations yesterday was one of disappointment, in the wake of expectations which arose apparently during the first talk on Tuesday night. At the end of a long lunch which Peres and his advisers had with the two Soviet envoys, Karen Brutents (a member of the CPSU Politburo) [as published] and Aleksandr Zotov (a Soviet Foreign Ministry official), the two Russians left the meeting hall in a tense and even irritated mood. They responded with impatience to journalists' attempts to question them, angrily telling them: "Cut this out." Peres and his advisers, who left the hall a few minutes later, also wore severe looks. [passage omitted]

Brutents denied yesterday... [providing additional material].

GERASIMOV INTERVIEWED ON CONSULAR VISIT

TA1010S7 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR (HOTAM supplement) in Hebrew 10 Apr 87 p 3

[Interview with Soviet Foreign Ministry Spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimov by Eli Hakohen on the telephone from Jerusalem -- no date given]

[Text] [Hakohen] Good morning to you, Mr Gerasimov. This is Eli Hakohen of the newspaper 'AL HAMISHMAR speaking to you from Jerusalem. I would like to address several questions to you on the question of a possible thaw in Soviet-Israeli relations and the issuing of exit visas to Jews. My first question is: Do you know when your consular delegation is scheduled to visit Israel?

[Gerasimov] Ah. As far as I know, they have not booked the tickets yet.

[Hakohen] I suppose that the tickets are not the reason for the delay.

[Gerasimov] Although it is true that we have plans for a Soviet consular delegation to visit your country, there is no rush and we are in no hurry. I can tell you that they will not arrive either this week or next week.

[Hakohen] When will they come?

[Gerasimov] I cannot assess that at the moment.

[Hakohen] When do you think thousands of Jews who so wish will be allowed to emigrate to Israel? Are you prepared to confirm that 12,000 Jews will be allowed to emigrate shortly?

[Gerasimov] I will not refer to any figures whatsoever. This kind of thing takes time. This is no simple matter and it is hard to make any promises. It depends on the number of applicants... it depends on many factors. But you simply make me laugh. After all, you know as well as I do that quite a number of Jews who left Russia arrived in Vienna and did not proceed from there to Israel but rather to America.

[Hakohen] You cannot deny that there are thousands of Jews in your country who wish to emigrate to Israel.

[Gerasimov] I do not know what numbers one may talk about.

[Hakohen] Will the Soviet Union allow direct flights from Moscow to Tel Aviv to fly those who want to Israel?

[Gerasimov] Direct flights? Where did you get this idea?

[Hakohen] The idea was published by the media.

[Gerasimov] Well, this is your own idea. We know nothing about it.

[Hakohen] Mr Gerasimov, thank you and have a nice day.

[Gerasimov] Thank you.

SYRIA'S AL-ASAD TO VISIT 'SECOND HALF OF APRIL'

LD131346 Moscow TASS in English 1316 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow April 13 TASS -- Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Renaissance Party and president of the Syrian Arab Republic, will pay an official visit to the Soviet Union in the second half of April at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and the Council of Ministers of the USSR.

EXHIBITION COMMEMORATES LEBANON'S KAMAL JUNBLATT

PM091031 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Apr 87 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Dedicated to K. Junblatt"]

[Text] An exhibition which opened in Moscow on 5 April at the Patrice Lumumba University of the Friendship of the Peoples is dedicated to the memory of Kamal Junblatt, loyal son of the Lebanese people and founder and first chairman of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party.

ETHIOPIA'S MENGISTU STOPS OVER IN KIEV

LD121812 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1745 GMT 12 Apr 87

[Text] Kiev, 12 Apr (TASS) -- Mengistu Haile Mariam, secretary general of the Workers Party of Ethiopia Central Committee, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council of Socialist Ethiopia stopped off in Kiev today on his way to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Valentina Shevchenko, chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium of the Ukrainian SSR and other officials met and saw off the leader of the fraternal country and the people accompanying him at the airport where the state flags of Socialist Ethiopia, the Soviet Union and the Ukrainian SSR were raised.

REPORTAGE ON ZAMBIAN PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT

Met by Ryzhkov

MB111030 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 11 Apr 87

[Text] Prime Minister Kebby Musokotwane has arrived in Moscow for a 2-day working visit. The prime minister was met at Sheremetyevo Airport by his Soviet counterpart, Comrade Nikolay Ryzhkov. Comrade Musokotwane will hold bilateral talks with Comrade Ryzhkov today and he is expected to visit the world renowned Gorkiy museum of Vladimir Lenin.

Holds Talks With Ryzhkov

LD111711 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1601 GMT 11 Apr 87

[Text] Moscow, 11 Apr (TASS) -- In the Kremlin today Nikolay Ryzhkov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, had a meeting with Kebby Musokotwane, member of the Central Committee of the United National Independence Party (UNIP) of Zambia, and prime minister of the republic, who is in Moscow for a short working visit. A detailed conversation was held on a wide range of topics of interest to the Soviet Union and Zambia.

Kebby Musokotwane revealed a lively interest in the process taking place in the USSR, and noted that the acceleration of the Soviet Union's socioeconomic development is creating a great impression, particularly on states that have set out on the path of progressive development.

Speaking of the Soviet Union's foreign policy, which is directed at averting a nuclear threat and at creating a non-nuclear and non-violent world via a system of universal international security, Nikolay Ryzhkov expressed satisfaction that the Soviet peace initiatives are meeting with understanding and support from the Zambian Government.

During the talks there was confirmation of the coincidence of the views of the two sides on the situation obtaining in the south of the African Continent, and solidarity was expressed with the struggle of the peoples of Namibia and South Africa under the leadership of South-West African People's Organization [SWAPO] and the African National Congress [ANC] for their freedom and independence.

Nikolay Ryzhkov noted that the Soviet Union takes on its merits the anticolonial, antiracist policy of the Republic of Zambia, which is aimed at rapidly resolving the explosive situation in southern Africa and at strengthening the unity of the independent countries at the region which are combating the aggressive machinations of the South African racists. He stressed that the Soviet Union has rendered, and will continue to render, support and aid to the "Frontline" African countries in their defense of their independence and territorial integrity.

On behalf of the UNIP Party and all Zambian people, Kebby Musokotwane expressed gratitude to the CPSU and the Soviet Government for their principled position, which finds expression in their constant support for the national liberation movements of southern Africa.

Musokotwane Departs for DPRK

MB130624 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 13 Apr 87

[Text] Prime Minister Kebby Musokotwane left Moscow for Pyongyang for a 4-day official visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea yesterday. Zambia and the Soviet Union have agreed to strengthen their cooperation in the fields of economic and scientific cooperation. The Soviet Union has assured Zambia of the continued training of Zambians in all economic fields to improve the economy of the country. Comrade Musokotwane and his Soviet counterpart Nikolay Ryzhkov condemned apartheid system in South Africa and the countries that prop it. [as heard]

PRAVDA NOTES CPSU DELEGATION'S CONGO VISIT

PM101135 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 Apr 87 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Congo Visit"]

[Text] Brazzaville, 8 Apr -- The CPSU delegation headed by A.N. Girenko, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of Kherson Ukrainian Communist Party Obkom, which is here in accordance with the plan for party ties between the CPSU and the Congolese Labor Party (PCT), met today with Pierre Mousse, secretary of the PCT Central Committee and minister of planning and the economy. During the talk that was held the prospects for developing CPSU-PCT and USSR-Congolese cooperation were discussed.

The previous day the CPSU delegation had visited Cuvette Province in the north of Congo. During its trip the delegation familiarized itself with the work of the province's agro-industrial complex enterprises and cooperatives.

ARGENTINE PUBLIC 'WRATHFULLY' DECRIES COUP ATTEMPT

LD192116 Moscow TASS in English 2056 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] Buenos Aires April 19 TASS — The Argentine public wrathfully denounce the attempts of a group of rebellious officers to encroach on democratic gains of the people, to create conditions for a military coup. Mass demonstrations in support of the constitutional government are being held in all cities of the country on the initiative of political parties, trade unions and public organizations.

The people of Argentina are declaring their determination to prevent a recurrence of the gloomy times of military dictatorships. The general confederation of labour has declared a general strike in [word indistinct] of democracy. The strike will be on until the threat of a coup is over. The document for democracy has been signed at the presidential palace today by leaders of the majority of political parties, trade unions and public organisations.

They denounced the attempts of the reactionary military to trample on the constitutional guarantees, and undertook to enlist the efforts of the population of the country for mass actions in defence of civil institutions and legality.

President of the Republic Raul Alfonsin arrived by helicopter at the location of the infantry school in the vicinity of Buenos Aires where the group of rebellious army officers are hiding.

Earlier in his address to the nation the president said he decided to meet with the rebels and convince them that it is senseless to continue putting up resistance and that they should surrender.

MEXICO'S SEPULVEDA TO PAY OFFICIAL VISIT IN MAY

LD200830 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0801 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Bernado Sepulveda Amor, secretary of foreign relations of the United Mexican States, will make an official visit to the USSR at the beginning of May at the invitation of the Soviet Government.

KIEV GORKOM HEARS SHCHERBITSKIY ON RESTRUCTURING

AU141422 Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 7 Apr 87 pp 1-2

[RATAU report: "To Set an Example in Restructuring Is the Duty of the Republic's Capital City Communists -- From a Kiev Gorkom Plenum" -- passages between slantlines published in boldface]

[Excerpts] The tasks of the city's party organizations in deepening restructuring and improving cadre work in conformity with the decisions of the January 1987 CPSU Central Committee plenum were discussed at a Kiev Gorkom plenum held on 4 April.

Before the plenum, party organizations in labor collectives discussed the gorkom's accountability report on the work carried out to implement the decisions of the 27th CPSU and Ukrainian Communist Party Congress, and in these discussions the communists made many critical remarks and proposals on the ways to deepen restructuring, to democratize internal party life, and to boost the organizational role of the gorkom and raykoms in implementing the program for hastening the country's socioeconomic development.

An accountability report at the plenum was delivered by Yu.N. Yelchenko, Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo member and Kiev Gorkom first secretary.

V.V. Shcherbitskiy, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee first secretary, delivered a speech at the plenum.

Comrades: At the present plenum we often hear the words "restructuring" and "acceleration." I think, you will agree that this plenum, in its content, differs substantially from preceding ones held for many years. This is natural. We have set out great, pressing, and unusual tasks. And it has to be admitted that we are merely at the outset of our path. There are difficulties, and there will be in the future too; the most complex of them seem to be ahead of us. For this reason all possibilities have to be used to overcome these difficulties as soon as possible, and to strictly follow the line of restructuring and accelerating everywhere. No one can stop half way, and even more, must not watch inactively what is going on.

/Having unanimously supported the line of the January CPSU Central Committee plenum, the recent Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee plenum called on the republic's Communists to work creatively, boldly, and enterprisingly to resolutely overcome negative phenomena discussed at the 27th CPSU Congress, at the CPSU and Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee plenums. A concrete plan for action has been determined, and it has to be persistently implemented./

The detailed and self-critical accountability report delivered on behalf of the gorkom bureau by Yu.N. Yelchenko and the speeches delivered by other comrades have shown that Kiev Gorkom members evaluated the achievements in a critical way and correctly comprehended the outstanding tasks. As far as concrete results of restructuring and accelerating, of implementing the decisions already adopted are concerned, it is still difficult to find a sphere of activity in which the things would be going the way life requires. This is a point from which all must, of course, draw practical conclusions, and must do this without delay.

V.V. Shcherbitskiy tackled questions which seem to be particularly topical for the city's party organization. The comrades who took the floor, he said, correctly noted that qualitative, radical changes in the economy still were taking place too slowly. The speakers also gave the causes for this. They pointed out that, in 1986, the national economic plan and socialist pledges were fulfilled for most indexes, including for the rates of raising production volumes and the sales of goods. However, production volume shrank at every seventh enterprise, and labor productivity declined at every tenth enterprise. In the current year, the January plan for these indexes was not fulfilled.

By the end of March, the situation improved. The quarterly plans for raising production volumes and labor productivity were fulfilled. But the plans for the main index -- for the sales of products with an eye on delivery obligations -- were only fulfilled 99.1 percent. The deliveries to consumers fell short of the target by R23.2 million, or almost by a day's volume of production. This is very disturbing.

/Clear-cut and reliable measures are to be taken to compensate for the arrears as soon as possible, and to resume the rhythm of the annual plan, paying particular attention to an improvement in economic indexes./

What is it that has to be taken up first of all in order to overcome all these negative phenomena?

First of all, /the city party organization could set an example in restructuring the key economic branch -- machine building./ Certainly, changes for the better, in this respect, have become visible in a number of sectors. And to a great extent, they have been preceded by great pains taken by the gorkom and labor collectives to implement the "Kiev Progress" program. However, in the work performed by enterprises of this branch, the situation in a number of indexes has not improved, but deteriorated. Thus, in the last 2 years, the share of new products shrank from 39 percent to 28 percent of the total, while the technical standards of products remained poor. Last year, every fourth enterprise fell short of the plan for first-class production, and 11 products have even lost the quality mark. The latter applies to products made by the printing machines under Comrade B.S. Osmuk, director, and Comrade V.I. Kykaylo, party committee secretary); by the Kievtorgmash production association (under Comrade V.P. Tsapov, director general, and Comrade Ye.M. Kozik, party committee secretary); and by a number of other enterprises.

Kiev enterprises have also lost the top positions they used to hold in the production of high quality consumer goods for the population. Practically all items of complex household equipment -- television receivers, tape recorders, radio receiving devices, and cameras -- have now been deprived of state quality marks.

The causes of these shortcomings are, of course, various. But the main one lies in the slow technical reequipment of production. For example, at the electric household equipment plant under Comrade M.M. Koposov, director, and Comrade L.G. Chernyavskaya, part committee secretary, more than 50 percent of new machine tools are being used, not to replace the obsolete and worn out ones but to expand the fleet.

At city enterprises, the share of equipment making it possible to apply technologies as advanced as plastic deforming and stamping is small. No effective use has been made of highly productive equipment which has already been installed. An examination of the state of affairs at 48 city enterprises showed that, in 1986, nearly 9 percent of the most advanced metal cutting, forging, and pressing machine tools, as well as 12 percent of equipment provided with automatic manipulators did not operate at all.

Those bearing a significant part of blame for the low technical level of production and output are branch institutes and designing bureaus integrated in machine-building associations. In the city, there are 30, or quite a few, of them. But only 50 percent of the work they perform is aimed at developing new kinds of machines, tools, and advanced technologies. And only one out of the eight complete elaborations exceeds in technical standards the best Soviet or foreign counterparts.

The collective of the all-union scientific research experimental designing institute for electric household machines and devices (under Comrade Yu.A. Ponomarev, director, and Comrade A.G. Chvargizov, party committee secretary) has been working with low returns for a long time. The same applies to the all-union scientific research institutes for stockbreeding machines, for related equipment, and to a number of others. And no one actually bears responsibility for this.

But after all, V.V. Shcherbitskiy said, the experience in the city is good. Early last year, the CPSU Central Committee criticized the Krasnyy Ekskavator plant for the quality of products it made. Today one can say that Comrade A.I. Kuzlev, director, and Comrade I.K. Gudz, party committee secretary, drew correct conclusions from the criticism. A clear-cut program was developed for perfecting the design of the excavator, and for increasing its reliability. The implementation of the program was also kept under constant control by Leningradskiy Raykom. And there was no need to wait long for the results: In its economic indexes, the excavator has now reached the standards of the world's best achievements. It has met with interest abroad, and its export has increased.

It is unexplainable why Comrade N.N. Sergeyev, Gorkom secretary, and Comrades S.A. Drizhchanyy and V.A. Chumakov, department chiefs, are so languid in spreading this experience at other enterprises.

For the Gorkom, raykoms, and enterprise party organizations, it is high time to demand from each leader and specialist strict accounts for the results of implementing the technical policy in the entrusted sector of work. The Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee will take steps to induce the republic's gosplan, the Central Committee's machine-building department, and the appropriate ministries to purposefully attend to the city's enterprises.

V.V. Shcherbitskiy went on by saying that the task /to turn Kiev into a kind of testing ground for scientific-technological novelties in the republic/ had been set repeatedly. And there are many things that seem to have been done: Special-purpose programs have been worked out, a promotion council has been set up, conferences and shows are being held.

And yet, what is obviously lacking is profound daily work, a well-considered systemic attitude, and frequently even adequate control. For example, the Council for Promoting Scientific-Technological Progress under the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee recently adopted the decision to restructure all kinds of programs in line with the technological principle. This was where the inhabitants of Kiev should have had their say, the more so as in the last 5-year period they worked in this field rather well. In that period, they successfully eliminated a number of "bottlenecks," set up model subunits for casting and tool production at the Kiev tractor spare parts, the "Lemmist", and the S.P. Korolev associations. But the model shops and sectors at these enterprises have remained, I would say, isolated in their performance.

Or let us take another fact. The scientists of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences have proposed a number of new advanced technologies, and 32 of them could be applied at enterprises in up to 700 cases. [paragraph continues]

Their annual economic effect would total 8400 million. The game is indeed worth the candle. And it is good that the Gorkom has made such an analysis. But the natural question arises: Why is this undertaking so slow to move farther ahead?

In recent times, the Gorkom, the city soviet and rayon organizations, and leaders of labor collectives have apparently begun to forget about their pledges /to turn Kiev into a city of highly productive labor, high efficiency, and model order./ This is a great and unpardonable omission. The social sphere -- particularly the development of the network of trade and public catering enterprises, and the application of modern methods in consumer services -- must be attended to in a significantly more purposeful manner. After all, quite a few decisions have been adopted in the city, including decisions by the Council of Ministers, to settle this problem.

Apparently some comrades consider it sufficient to make a decision, and this exhausts the problem. This is an illusion. To bring the matter to an end, it is still necessary to work hard and well. For this purpose, a sharp turn has to be taken, primarily in cadre provision. Because of the absence of effective reserves, functionaries are being appointed to leading posts in the sphere of services, frequently without prior careful examination of their business-like and moral qualities, and this results in frequent reshuffles. In the last 5 years, for example, more than 50 percent of consumer service enterprises changed their directors, and some of these enterprises incurred simply cadre leap frog.

Naturally enough, this is harmful to the cause. The Gorkom, and particularly raykoms must set about staffing this vitally important sphere, as they say, with both hands. There is no other way to put the things in order.

The next question involves /the utilization of the big scientific and cultural potential of the city, the development of the spiritual sphere./

Since the tasks confronting academic science were thoroughly discussed at the recent session of a general meeting of the Ukranian Academy of Sciences, V.V. Shcherbitskiy said, let me only touch upon some problems concerning the higher school. The links existing between higher schools and production, on the one hand, and between higher schools and the Academy of Sciences, on the other, have thus far been weak and not adapted to the needs of life either in Kiev or in other cities of the republic. Moreover, production still has not turned toward the higher school, and the special-purpose training of specialists on the basis of direct agreements with national economic branches has been developing slowly. It would be logical for the educational institutions of Kiev -- this important center of higher educational establishments -- to assume, with the active participation of enterprises, leading positions in integrating education, science, and production; in radically improving the quality of specialists' preparation and utilization.

The standards and social importance of research carried out at higher educational institutions fall short of present needs, too. And many of these institutions are not engaged in any scientific research at all but live on the old stocks. This does not cause an appropriate reaction either on the part of institute rectors or party organizations.

The Gorkom and raykoms must also pay more attention to ideopolitical tempering of students, to their internationalist and patriotic education. After all, omissions in the ideological training of the future specialists, in fostering among them social responsibility, entail consumer moods, indifference to civil duties and to one's vocation, and frequently lead to such moral defects as drunkenness, hooliganism, and offenses the number of which among the city's students, in recent years, has not declined.

Naturally enough, party committees and directorates are expected to eliminate these and other shortcomings in the program of restructuring the higher school. Many problems have also been accumulated in vocational and technical education, as well as in the development of the general-education school. All these immediate tasks have to be significantly more energetically accomplished by Comrades V.I. Mikhaylovskiy and R.I. Chernyakova, by raykoms and rayispolkoms.

V.V. Shcherbitskiy then tackled some problems of /cultural life in the city./ It has already been noted, he said, that many sizable art collectives in the capital city, particularly theaters and film studios, are working below their capacities. Recently, there have been many talks about "new models" and experiments, but concrete deeds have been practically nonexistent. Some creative workers, now and then even prominent ones, instead of showing their personal initiative, drown concrete deeds in an endless talking shop, or even sin against ideologically mature opinions.

What matters now is to focus the attention of all ideological cadres on real problems which concern people, and to enhance by all means authentic spiritual values, the ideals of socialism. All this undoubtedly calls for more care and competence in control over theaters, concert organizations, and art collectives on the part of the Gorkom, the Gorispolkom, and the republic's Ministry of Culture.

After all, many creative collectives have been deprived of their own production base for many years. What could help accomplish this task are the existing culture houses whose possibilities have been utilized, in the best of cases, only half way. Furthermore, modern forms of work in this sphere have been applied very poorly. There has been much talk that the city needed a good chess club, yet there was not even an inch of progress made. Thus, on the ideological front the fresh breeze of changes has touched by far not all.

All problems are stuck again on account of cadres. Following the city party conference which was held just a little more than a year ago, something has been done to improve cadre work. But this is obviously insufficient.

/Regarding the state of affairs in cadre work from the positions of the January CPSU Central Committee Plenum, there is every ground to say that it has to be restructured more energetically./ In relying on basic party organizations, we have to apply new forms of cadre work more boldly, and have to engage the working people in administering public affairs more widely.

Under the conditions of deepening democracy in all spheres of public life, paramount attention has to be paid to increasing the role of party committees as organs of political leadership. The Gorkom is expected to significantly increase exactingness to raykoms, and to see to it that they restructure the style of work not by words, but by deeds, and that they more purposefully work among basic party organizations and labor collectives.

At the same time, the gorkoms should also give more assistance to rayon party organizations. Attention has to be intensified particularly to the work performed by Zhovtnevyy, Zaliznychnyy, and Dneprovskiy raykoms and rayispolkoms.

At present, V.V. Shcherbitskiy emphasized, /it is particularly important for everyone to realize that the January CPSU Central Committee plenum decisions have marked a special stage, and that the further progress in restructuring, as well as the pace of accelerating, largely depend on the way we implement these decisions./ Today, when a clear-cut and long-term program has been worked out, the CPSU Central Committee expects us to shift the center of gravity in the activity of party, state, and economic organs to practical restructuring.

The Gorkom Bureau, and primarily Comrades Yu.N. Yelchenko and S.S. Martynyuk, Gorkom first and second secretaires, must pay significantly more attention to cadre work, must better distribute forces, and must settle the current problems with an eye to the future. Obkom secretaries and all Obkom members are expected to systematically organize the implementation of adopted decisions, to mre thoroughly examine and control the situation in the field, and to take timely steps to eliminate omissions.

Many gorispolkom leaders still lack initiative and well-considered organization in their work. And this largely depends on Comrades V.A. Zgurskiy and N.V. Lavrukhin. The insufficient demand from many city soviet sections and administrations to have a deeper insight into the situation, into details, and to engage more in "dirty work." The gorispolkoms must show a significant improvement in coming to grips with the housing problem, must more rapidly eliminate countless shortcomings in the work of municipal services, and in the sphere of trade and consumer services, and must more attentively listen to public opinion and critical remarks.

The state of affairs in the city is evidence that the Ukranian Communist Party Central Committee and Council of Ministers should handle better the problems of the republic's capital city, and must be stricter in evaluating omissions, as well as the results of work performed by ministries and city organizations. This applies primarily to overcoming the lag incurred in stepping up capacities in the base of the construction industry and of construction and assembly organizations. Without healing this chronic malady, things will continue to go badly, and never-ending constructions, such as the library of the Academy of Sciences or the "Turist" Hotel on the left bank of the Dnepr, which have set everyone's teeth on edge, will continue to loom on the horizon. It will also be very difficult to cope with the task to steeply step up housing construction in order to compensate for apartments which have been surrendered in connection with the accident at Chernobyl AES.

Speaking more concisely, V.V. Shcherbitskiy emphasized at the end, we all have to draw appropriate conclusions and have to raise the entire organizational and political work to a higher level.

/While increasing the competence and responsibility of cadres and while tightening control from above -- and particularly from below -- over the final results of work, we will resolutely overcome all difficulties, will create everywhere an atmosphere of high exactness and creativity, and will steadily move forward./

The businesslike and frank discussion at the present plenum will undoubtedly give encouragement, a new impulse for accomplishing the great and responsible tasks confronting the city party organization. [passage omitted]

The decision adopted by the plenum has determined measures for implementing the decisions of the January 1987 CPSU Central Committee plenum, at deepening restructuring, and at increasing the part of the Kiev city party organization in accelerating the country's socioeconomic development.

Participating in the plenum proceedings were A.I. Koriyenko, Organizational Party Work Department chief under the Ukranian Communist Party Central Committee; V.K. Lavrov, instructor in the Organizational Party Work Department under the CPSU Central Committee; and leaders of a number of the republic's ministries and departments.

VII.	WESTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
VIII.	SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT; contents include: International Affairs Inter-African Affairs Central Africa Burundi Cameroon Central African Republic Congo Equatorial Guinea Gabon Rwanda Sao Tome & Principe Zaire East Africa Djibouti Ethiopia Kenya Somalia Tanzania Uganda Indian Ocean Comoros Madagascar Mauritius Seychelles Southern Africa Angola Botswana Lesotho Malawi Mozambique Namibia Republic of South Africa Reunion Swaziland Zambia Zimbabwe Western Africa Benin Burkina Faso Cape Verde Islands The Gambia Ghana Guinea Guinea-Bissau Ivory Coast Liberia Mali Niger Nigeria Senegal Sierra Leone Togo

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